

THE
L I F E
O F
Donna Rosina,
A
NOVEL,
BEING,

A Pleasant Account of the Artifices
and *Impostures* of a Beautiful Woman,
who Jilted and Created the most Ex-
perienc'd *Sharps*, and made all
Persons Unhappy, that Thought her
Handsome.

*Originally a Spanish Relation. In Three Parts.
Done into English, by the Ingenious Mr. E. W.
a known Celebrated AUTHOR.*

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TO THE
READER.

There was formerly Published in the *Spanish* Tongue, a Tract call'd, the Life of *Gusman de Alfarache*, the Humour of which took so well in this Nation, that he and his Rogueries were several times committed to the Press. The Design of that Work was to represent One on whom either Nature, or a strange *Ascendant* of *Mercury*, the *Thieving Planet*, had bestowed a Talent of *Cheating* and *Circumvention*, that he not only *Trickt* all he dealt with, but became a *Precedent* or *Pattern* to all those who out of Necessity or Inclination, have been Obliged to live by their Shifts, or their Wits, as some call it.

The present Story hath some Resemblance to that *Ingenious Piece*; for-

asmuch as it brings in a *Woman*, engaged in as great Designs as her Predecessor *Gusman*, but with this Advantage, *That the Weakness of her Sex obliges her to make Use of Men for the Prosecution of her Enterprizes.* They are both Originally *Spanish* Relations, a *Language* we are obliged to for many Pieces of this Kind.

The *Intrigues* inserted, are not altogether *Imaginary*, but such as really happen'd in some Eminent Cities of *Spain*; which yet if any Person have not *Faith* enough to Believe, the only way to be Satisfied is, to Travel to those Places where the Scenes are laid, and thereby fully Inform himself of the Reality of these *Transactions*.

And so I Wish the *Reader* as much Pleasure in Perusing, as I had in Translating the same.

E. W.

T H E

THE
L I F E
O F

Donna *Rosina*,
A Notorious *CHEAT*, &c.

Part the First.

THIS Miracle of Female Subtilty, whose Life and Actions are our present Subject, was Young, Sprightly, and very Beautiful; Three Dangerous Advantages when they are attended with those Qualifications, for which she was no less Famous, namely, *Craft, Impudence, and Hypocrisy*, and an insatiable

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tible Longing after other People's Goods; and all these strengthened by a natural Propensity, as being the Issue of Parents, who, instead of giving a timely Check to these Vicious Inclinations, rather encouraged her in them by their ill Example, as being addicted to the same themselves from their Youth.

Signior *Trapassa*, Father to this worthy Person, whose Atchievements we intend to Relate, had been Condemned to the Gallies, for having Assumed to himself an Order of Knighthood, before he had made the necessary Tryals, upon which the King bestows that Honour, by the Sovereign Council of *Portugal*. His design in doing it, was, that he might the more conveniently follow his Profession of Stealing about the Court, where he was Respected as a Knight; and the better under that Cloak to play those Pranks of Villany, wherein he was such a Professor, that the most expert Thief might have learnt Lessons from him.

A certain Woman whom he used an unlawful Trade withal, was so Incensed against him, upon the Account of some Jealousy, that he reserved not all his Kindness for her, that she put in a Charge against him, the Issue whereof was, that he was preferr'd to the Gallies, where he passed o-

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ver the Term of his Condemnation, and somewhat more. He was put into that Squadron of Slaves, which is called the Squadron of *Spain*, and turned over from *Toledo* to *St. Mary's Port*, with the rest who were in the same Predicament of Slavery. He made an Attempt to recover his Liberty, but the Plot being discover'd, he was put to greater Hardship than he had otherwise been.

As soon as the Lady *Estephania* (so was the Jealous Woman that had shewed him that Trick, called) understood he was gone to Exercise that painful Employment, tho' she was not of an over Compassionate Nature, yet she very seriously Repented that she had been the Occasion of his Misery; and considered, that she could not make better Satisfaction for that Injury, than by proffering herself to him in Marriage, as soon as the time of his Pennance was Expired.

And what inclined her the more to this kind of Reparation was, that she had already a Daughter by him, which Child is the Heroine of our present History. With this Resolution she left the Court, and went to *Sevil*, hoping in that great and famous City, she might the sooner hear some News of him, whom she had Reduced to such a wretched Condition, and whom she would

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once more have gladly seen at Liberty.

Estephania had a House well Furnished, being a *Genoese's* Widow, who had left her very well to pass: That, and the Care she took to go in rich Cloaths, gained her such Repute at *Sevil*, that she was lookt upon as some Person of Quality, but she soon lost that, when the Relation of her Life came to be known; especially this Particular of it. That out of an excess of Jealousy she had preferr'd a young Gallant to the Gallies, whom she had often entertain'd on a Feather bed. This imprudent Action made her Abominable in the Opinion of the most intimate of her own Sex, whose Indignation she allow'd to be more just against her, when she consider'd, that she had Prostituted her self to an Impostor, and a Rascal fit only for the Gallies.

These Reasons and Reproaches, obliged her to remove from *Madrid* to *Sevil*, carrying all she could conveniently with her, and Selling the rest, which brought her in a considerable Sum of Money. Having thus order'd her Affairs, she went towards *Sevil* by Coach, with two Maids to wait on her, intending to continue there, till the time of *Trapassa's* Serving in the Gallies was expired, for she kept an exact Account of it, which being near out, she understood that the *Spanish* Gallies were arrived safe at *St.*

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Mary's Port. She immediately went thither, not in so high a Dress as she wore at *Sevil*, but in a more modest Habit, that she might not be afterwards Reproach'd, That she was Wife of a Galley-Slave, whom she had Courted out of Chains to her Embraces.

She was soon Informed that her Gallant was in the Captain's own Galley, very Jo-und, and advanced to the Office of a Foreman, a Preheminence among the Slaves which Exempts them from Rowing, which he had acquir'd of the General by the Pleasantness of his Conversation; and was by this time so well acquainted with the Gallies, that he seem'd not to Value whether ever he came out of them. But the arrival of *Estephania* Remedied all. Her first Business was to Treat about his Liberty with those Persons on whom the Matter depend-
ed; and feeding them with Money, *Trappa* had no Knowledge of her Design, as not having seen her, nor stir'd out of the Galley; so that he was much Surprized when he came to understand that some Person did not only Sollicit his Freedom, but was likewise Liberal of their Money to procure it; for it never entred into his Thoughts, that his old Love *Estephania*, should have changed the cruel Humour he had left her in, into Mildness and Compass-

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sion for him. All things being agreed on, for *Trapassa's* Discharge, his Chains were struck off, and he was told, he might go whither he would. In the mean time could not tell who had been the Author of that Happiness, which was no small one, in regard that when poor Slaves have served out the time of their Condemnation, yet there are some Pretences found to hinder their being set at Liberty; so that though they have been Sentenc'd only to Serve 4 Years, yet have been forced to remain in Servitude Five or Six.

Signior *Trapassa* was extremely Astonisht when he found himself in the Presence of *Estephania*, who stood waiting on the Shoar to receive him, and perceiv'd, that it was only by her means that he had recovered his Freedom. She received him with open Arms; and he, to express his Gratitude, returned the like obliging Caresses to her: So that the Kindness he had now received from her, made him quit his Resentments for the Miseries she had occasion'd him. He was somewhat Disturb'd that she did not appear in that Habit which he had left her at *Madrid*, as being ignorant of her Design in Disguising herself; nor could she at that time give him an Account of it, by reason the Captain and others who deliver'd him, were present, and whom she was obliged to entertain

entertain at Dinner. Having Treated 'em very handsomely, all withdrew, save only *Trapassa*, who continued still with his Mistress. Finding themselves alone, they repeated their Caresses, and outvied one another in Assurances of the Satisfaction they received by that Interview. *Trapassa* returned her Thanks with all the grateful Acknowledgments imaginable, for the Trouble and Charge she had been at, and the Goodness she had shewn in freeing him from the worst of Slavery. On the other side, *Estephania* ask'd his Pardon for the Mischief she had procur'd him, and all the Misfortunes her Malice had Occasion'd to him; telling him withal, That she could not imagine any other way to Repair the Injury she had done him, but by joyning Hands with him in Matrimony if he lik'd the Proposal, since she had a Daughter already by him, and Wealth enough for both of them to live at their Ease.

I leave you to Judge, Whether this Motion was not Pleasing to *Trapassa*, who was ready to catch at the least Offer of Good Fortune, upon his coming out of so severe a School of Pennance. So that his Answer was in renewing his Embraces, satisfying her with what Joy he accepted of the advantageous Bargain she proposed to him; intreating her to give him an Account of his

his Daughter, whom he was passionately Desirous to see.

Estephania, over-joy'd to find his Sentiments so Agreeable to her Expectation, presented him with a noble Riding Suit, which she had purposely caused to be made for him; and the next Morning betimes they took their Journey towards *Sevil*, where *Trapassa* finding his Daughter then about Eight Years old, he acted a part that he had never done before, that is, he was solemnly Married to the Lady *Estephania* in the Face of the Church. They changed their Lodgings to another Quarter of the City than that where they had formerly dwelt, being resolved to live another kind of Life than they had done before. For *Estephania* believing that the Hardship her dear Love had endured in the Gallies, had cured him of some of his former Extravagancies, and that the Grey Hairs he had brought from thence, would Reclaim him from his Debauches. She endeavour'd to procure him some Credible Employment in *Sevil*, as well to keep him out of Idleness, as that he might thereby bring in something toward House-keeping. But an inbred Disposition which was in *Trapassa*, could not easily be brought under Discipline, and if he had behaved himself a while, with some Reservedness, it proceeded from the

Influence of the Admonitions and Rebukes which his Wife continually gave him, and not out of any virtuous Inclination; so that through his own Neglect, he could find out no other Business but frequenting Gaming-Houses, Play-Houses, and other vicious places, where those who are Naturally inclined to Sloth, usually waste most part of their time. This course of Life extreamly troubled his Wife; who yet willing to avoid all Matrimonial Discontents, wink'd at his Disorders, and endeavour'd to find some Comfort in the Conversation of his Daughter, whose Beauty was already become the common Discourse of the City.

Trapassa having no settled Business, Idleness being the Seminary of all Vices, tempted him to follow his former Course of Gaming, the Gulf wherein so many fair Estates have been swallowed up. He began at first to Play at small Games, as if for Recreation only, but afterwards venturing still higher, he in a short time took the Opportunity to lay Hands on the Goods of his Wife. She was sensible enough, that too many of her things were wanting, and doubted not but her Husband had conveyed them away; but all she could do, was, to weep and bemoan her Misfortune, which she charged upon no body but herself. *Trapassa* perceiving her so much disturbed, promised

mis'd Reformation, but the curst Humour of Gaming continuing upon him, his Luck was so bad, that he Pawned or Sold every thing of Value in his House. Finding himself at length reduced to pinching Necessities, he began to Contrive how he might again Retrieve himself. He would have been content that his Wife, who was yet Handsome, should have turned Common Prostitute, tho' she had but just Recovered her Reputation; but he perceived she was grown so Honest, and so alter'd from what she had been before, that he had not the Confidence to mention it to her: For she grew so extream Melancholly at the Disorder'd Demeanour of her Husband, that she seem'd in a manner careless of all things, and little regarded the Education of her Daughter, who was by this time come into the Teens, and by reason of these Distractions between her Parents, liv'd as she pleased, appearing every Day at the Window, not with a little Affectation.

The Grief and Regret which poor *Estephania* conceived at her being reduced to Penury, brought her into a Sickness whereof she Died about a Year after, with a sincere Repentance for her past Follies, in Hopes to Die as Happy a Death, as her Husband had occasion'd her living an Unhappy Life. She was ver/ meanly Buried,

Trapassa

Trapassa not having wherewithal to bestow much on her Funeral. He was much concerned at her Death, and acknowledged but too late, his great Oversight in returning to his ill Courses; whereas, if he had taken her Advice, he might have lived Pleasantly all the rest of his Days. All the Comfort he had now left, and the Hope on which he depended for a Livelyhood, was the Beauty of his Daughter, which he believ'd so Charming, as might procure him a Son in Law, who would Relieve his Necessities, never considering, that in this Age Riches are commonly preferr'd before Virtue, and that Graces and Perfections have seldom much Power in them, if Wealth be lacking.

The unfortunate *Trapassa*, though oppressed with Miseries, could not forbear frequenting the Gaming Houses, not indeed to play himself, for he had not wherewithal, but to get some small Present from the Gamesters when they had a good Hand, as is usual in *Spain* to be bestowed upon those that look on, and is commonly the only Revenue of those that have Ruin'd themselves by that pernicious Diversion.

Trapassa being seldom at home, it gave his Daughter the greater freedom to follow her own Sentiments. She would be perpetually looking out of the Window, which induc'd

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induc'd a great number of Young Gallants to repair to the Street where she dwelt. The Father was not Ignorant how matters went, and though he might have prevented yet winkt at it, in hopes to see his Daughter advantageously Married, to help him out, as being the most likely means to retrieve his Misfortunes. He therefore left the little *Rosina*, so was his Daughter called, to her own Liberty, hoping that by her Insinuations, she would in time have the Disposal of the Hearts and Purses of those that Courted her. His Designs proved more successful than he imagined; for among many that Languished for her, there was one very Rich, who was Transported with the Love of her. She assumed the Title of *Donna*, an Honour which belongs only to Persons of Noble Extraction, because her Mother had used it before, and if she had not, her Daughter would have taken it up, as being a Dignity that Costs little or nothing.

The Person who was so remarkably her Servant, was Agent for some Affairs in *Peru*; a Gentleman whose Credit much exceeded his Estate, and was accounted very Rich, belonging to the Ensuring Office in the *Spanish West Indies*, and about 50 Years of Age. Though he was satisfied that his Mistress had no Fortune, and that he must
also

also maintain her Father, yet he was resolved to take her for Better for Worse; from whence we may deduce this Observation, That when Love has once taken Possession of an Aged Person, it is very Difficult to Dispossess him. *Laurentia de Savania*, this Amorous Elder was named, who was so enchanted with the Beauty of *Rosina*, that the Treaty of Marriage was concluded in less than Eight Days, and he had the Earnest of an Happiness, which he thought would have lasted him as long as he Lived. He took his Father in Law into his Family: though he knew him to be a great Gamester. The first Days of the Nuptials were spent as they usually are at such Solemnities; he furnished his Wife with new Gowns, Rings, and Jewels, suitable to his Condition; for being a Person pretty well stricken in Years, he was no Lover of Excess, an Humour not very Pleasing to *Rosina*, who minded nothing so much as rich Cloaths, and Long'd for whatsoever she saw worn by Women of a Quality much above her; and this much Cooled her Love to her Husband, who was of an *Indian* Disposition, somewhat Covetous, and careful not to Waste his Estate; and being sensible that her Father was an Old Gamester, who had run out all, he durst not Trust his Wife with keeping the Cash, nor with the Expences of his House,
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This Proceeding quite Defeated the Hopes of *Trapassa*, who imagined, that upon this Marriage, he should Command all that was in his Daughter's Power, being still possess'd with the restless Spirit of Gaming.

Rosina Observing her Husband was Employed about his Affairs, took Occasion to go abroad every Morning, under pretence of going to Church, to Pray that she might be a Mother; with this Excuse she blinded her Husband, the true Motives of these Sallies being to appear in the Streets, and at Mafs. A Citizen's Son of *Sevil*, taking notice of her, fell instantly in Love with her, one of the most Debauch'd Young Men of his time; who had reduced himself by his Lewdness, into as bad a Condition almost, as *Trapassa*. His Name was *Ruperio*, a very comely Beau, who proved so Fortunate in Courting *Rosina*, that she was wholly at his Devotion, expecting to receive such Presents from him, as might put her in a Garb agreeable to her Beauty, above what she could obtain from the Miser her Husband.

The first Demand she made to him, was somewhat Modest, considering she was a Merchant's Wife, namely, to bestow on her a Gown of the same Silk and Fashion that a Neighbour of hers had, whom she named, and a Gold Watch for her side, promising
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him, in Requital of these Favours, not to Deny him any thing that was in her Power. *Rosina*, by his insolent Boastings, imagined that he had Thousands at Command, and he likewise promised to Comply with her Desires; but being unable to perform the same, he contriv'd how to get that by his Wit, which his Purse would not reach to. He happen'd to be well Acquainted with the Lady, whose Gown he was to match, and going to her, intreated her to Lend it him; pretending it was only for the Representation of a *Comedy* which was to be acted in a Nunnery. He could not be Denied upon such an Account; so that at the end of Three Days, which time he told *Rosina*, it would take up to make it, he sent it to her House, when her Husband was abroad in the City about his business. The Watch he told her was not yet finish'd, but should suddenly be brought her; intreating her in the mean time, to accept of another of less Value, as a Pledge for the Security of the other. She returned him Hearty Thanks, extreamly Pleas'd to find he was so Punctual, and to shew herself Grateful, gave him all the Satisfaction he could expect from her.

He took leave of *Rosina*, who intended to Persuade her Husband, that a Kinsman of hers had sent her that Gown from *Madrid*,

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drid, to prevent his being Jealous of her. On the other Hand, *Ruperio* resolved, if possible, to get it again, and return it where it was borrowed. *Savaria* having no knowledge of him, he effected the matter by the following Trick.

Four or Five Days after the delivery of the Gown to *Rosina*, *Ruperio* puts himself into the Habit of a Serving Man, and about Dinner comes to *Savaria*'s House, saying, he was Servant to the Lady to whom the Gown belong'd. *Savaria* order'd him to come in, who told him, he was sent by his Mistress, for the Gown she had Lent *Madam Rosina*, only to see the Fashion of it. *Savaria* turning toward his Wife, ask'd her what Gown the Fellow would have? She presently knew her Gallant: *Friend*, said she, come hither to *Morrow Morning*, and you shall have it. But my Mistress, replies *Ruperio*, has commanded me not to come back without it; for this Afternoon she is to go to a *Christning*, at which she is to be Gossip, and she must needs have it. How shall I know, cryes she, that you belong to that Lady, and that you came from her? The crafty Spark, perceiving what she design'd, and that she had no mind to return it; The Gown, said he, is of such a Colour, trim'd in such a manner, and was sent you in a *Green Cloth*, done about with a *Silk Eringe*. *Savaria* hearing him give such par-

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particular Marks; Sweet-heart, said he to his Wife, *You have nothing to reply, for since he demands it with so much earnestness, no question but his Mistress has occasion for it; and if you are unwilling to rise out of your place, give me the Key of your Trunk where it is, and I will fetch it.* Rosina had not a Word more to say, but being ready to burst with Indignation, she arose from the Table, took the Gown out of the Trunk, and delivering it to *Ruperio*, Give my humble Service, said she, to *Madam Leonara*, and tell her, I ask her Pardon that I did not send it home sooner, which I could not do, because the Person for whom I borrowed it, was not here since.

The disguised Gallant received the Gown, and left *Rosina* with her Eyes all on Fire, and vext to the Soul to find herself so impudently affronted. *Savaria* askt her upon what account she had borrowed it, who answer'd, That it was at the Request of an Acquaintance of hers, who was desirous to have such another, as being extreamly taken with the Colour and Fashion of it. She perswaded her Husband to any thing, who, poor Man, understood little of the World, besides his Trading. In the mean time she was extreamly incens'd against *Ruperio*, for the Ungenteel Trick he had put upon her, in depriving her of a Garment she was so pleas'd with, and whereof she thought her self

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self Indisputably posselt. She thereupon resolved to be Revenged on him, whatever it cost her; but thinking to Communicate her Design to her Maid who was her Confident in all her Intrigues, *Trapassa* her Father over heard them, and came to the Knowledge of the whole Story; and being Acquainted with the Gallant, who was one that haunted Gaming Houses, he thought himself Obliged to Revenge the Affront done to his Daughter; and meeting him one Day in the Street, tells him he desired to measure the Length of his Sword, upon what account he should know when he came to the Place. *Ruperio* followed him, and being gone so far from the City, that they were out of the People's Sight, *Trapassa* acquainted him with the Occasion of this Challenge. They presently drew, and made several Passes, but at length *Trapassa* proved the more unfortunate, for he was run thorough the Heart, so that he Died immediately, not having time to make the least act of Contrition; a Judgment usually happening to those who lead such vicious Lives as he had done. *Ruperio* took Sanctuary in a Church, and *Trapassa's* Body was brought to his Son in Law, where it was received with a mixture of Joy and Sorrow; Joy that the House was deliver'd from the most Humourfome and Insupportable Person in the

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the World, and Grief for the future charge of his Interment.

In the mean time *Rosina* made it appear by her Lamentations and Tears, that his death was as great an affliction to her, as it was pleasing to her Husband. She would receive no Consolation, pretending she had lost all her support in this World ; for all the Relations and Friends she had were now exchanged for a Husband whom she could not affect. On the other side, *Savaria* thought himself one of the happiest Men in the World, to have a Wife handsome and young as his was ; but she was really a little too handsome and too young for him ; that proportion of Age, which Parents ought chiefly to mind in marrying their Children, not being observed in this. It cannot be expected, that an old man should be acceptable to a young Girl ; and when a Woman comes once to slight her Husband, she is in the way to admit of any Body. But for *Rosina*, the ambition she always had of going highly in Cloaths, and to be revenged of *Ruperio*, made her break forth into all Excesses that exasperated Woman-kind can fall into ; to defile her marriage Bed, and absolutely abandon her self to Act all those things from which she hoped to derive any satisfaction or advantage. Nothing so much disquieted her as the injury

jury she had received from *Ruperto*, which she thought so great, that she would have died for sorrow, but out of a desire to be revenged of him. But in regard she must have assistance therein, she took all opportunities to assure her self of a Gallant who would Vigorously execute her Commands.

One of those Fridays, which are solemniz'd with a great concourse of People from Easter to Whitsuntide, in *Triana*, part of the Suburbs of *Sevil*, thro' which passes the *Quadalquivier*, the most famous River in *Andalusia*. *Rosina* went into a Boat covered with Branches to go and see that Festival, to which she was carried by the express Order of her Husband, by a Neighbour of his whom he thought one of the most discreet and Virtuous Women in the World; but he was not the first Man who has been deceived in a Woman; for on the contrary she was one of the most Wanton, and withal the most Silly of the whole Sex. She therefore took up a Boat for herself, *Rosina*, and two Women more of their acquaintance; but though she had given the Waterman his full Fare; yet she was easily persuaded by him to take other Persons into the Boat, and among them a Young Man who had his Spies at the water-side to give him notice of such an opportunity. They were no sooner come aboard, but *Rosina* unvail'd

unvail'd her Face, which the Gallant, whom we will call *Felician*, had no sooner seen but he was surprized with her Beauty; and thought her so extream handsome that he persuaded some of his Friends who stood on the River side to come into the Boat, and to effect it greased the Waterman's Fist. Being all got in, *Felician* took his place next to *Rosina*, into whose favour it was his design to insinuate himself. He was Son to a Person of Quality, who had railed himself to a vast Fortune in the *Indies*, and had no Child but this; who disposing of his wealth as he pleased; it was foreseen that it would not be long ere he scattered abroad what his Father had not in so short a time raked together. For he was a profuse Gamester, a perpetual Courter of Ladies, and maintained a Crew of Hangers on, who accompanied and encouraged him in his Debauches. Besides these admirable Qualities, he was extreamly extravagant in point of Cloaths, a Vice common in Young Men at *Sevil*, who have all things at their own disposal as he had.

Being seated near *Rosina*, and his Comrades next to her she Friends, the Boat went leisurely down the River, for which the Waterman had consideration. *Felician* was resolved to lose no time, but declare his Love to *Rosina*, in such obliging Terms that

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He gave intire Credit to what he said, and by her attention satisfied him that she was not displeased with his Company. *Felician* was a very ingenious Person, and of a complaisant humour upon such occasions as these, expressing himself with such a Grace and smartness, that the Ladies were exceedingly pleased, especially *Rosina*, who thought nothing comparable to his Conversation. She told him her Name, the place where she Lived, what Profession her Husband was of; and in a word made him a kind of Confession of her most secret Affairs. *Felician* was as free to her, concluding his discourse with a Thousand Protestations of service and obedience to her commands. The afternoon passed away in Compliments and Courtship, to the great satisfaction of *Rosina*, who had two designs to carry on at the same time; One to be reveng'd on *Ruperio*, by the assistance of *Felician*, and the other to wheedle out of him some Money towards new Cloaths and her other extravagant expences, and she succeeded in both her Projects.

From that day *Felician* began to frequent the street where *Rosina* dwelt, especially when he had Intelligence that her Husband was abroad about his Concerns. *Rosina* on the other side resolved not to comply easily; for remembering how she had

had been put upon by *Ruperio*, She was Jealous of having the same Game plaid over again with her. Before she admitted him entrance into the House, she resolv'd to make Tryal of his Liberality. Of this she was in a short time pretty well informed; for *Felician* having been Prodigal all his Life, he upon this occasion exceeded all he had done before, sending her Presents of Rich Cloaths, Jewels, and other Ornaments, besides the Expence he was at in Treats and Collations when they met privately together as they often did; so that *Rosina* was the most satisfied Woman in the World. 'Tis commonly said, that the more easily a Man attains his enjoyments the sooner he is surfeited with them; but it was otherwise with *Felician*, whose affection to *Rosina* encreased daily, and came to that height that it could not well be greater.

It happened about this time, that *Ruperio* gained in one Night Six hundred Crowns at Play. He always went very fine; but this unexpected good Fortune made him exceed his former Gaudiness. But with that good he fancied he had likewise ill Fortune, being told that *Felician* was often seen in the Street where *Rosina* lived; from whence he infer'd, that he made some Addresses to her. This Jealousy began to revive the Love he formerly had for her, and he was

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disturbed that he should have any Rival; Hereupon he resolved if possible to recover her Favour, and requite the Injury he was sensible he had done her. Upon this account he passed several times through the same street, which caused no little perplexity to *Felician*.

Rosina was enraged to see the Impostor had the Impudence to make any pretensions to her favour after the notorious Sham he had put upon her. She consider'd there was no other way to be rid of his importunities, but to engage her beloved Gallant *Felician* in her quarrel, by perswading him that *Ruperio*'s design was to break off the happy Correspondence, and Affection that there was between them; So that if he had any value for her Love, he ought to find out some means to check the Insolence of his Rival, and free her from his Courtship, which was odious to her. Observe here what dangerous service Women put their Gallants upon, setting them on like Game-Cocks till they have destroyed one another.

Rosina thought it not prudence to acquaint *Felician* with what had pass'd between her and *Ruperio*, but took a safer course, telling him that he was continually soliciting her with very advantagious profers, which yet for his sake she absolutely refused and slighted. *Felician* believed her, the

the rather because he met him every day, and sometimes in the night, walking the Rounds about his Mistress house. To incense him the more, she added, that were it not for that troublesome Person she would see him oftner than she did. There needs no more to be said, *Felician* enflamed with Spight, met *Ruperio* one Night in that street, when he knew *Rosina* was in Bed, and her Husband looking over some accounts which Concerned his Agency. *Felician* perceiving *Ruperio* called him by his name, and having talked a while together to avoid being discovered by making any quarrel in the streets, they retired into a little Alley which happened to be near the window of the room where *Sayaria* kept all his Papers, and was then very busy in perusing them; Being come thither, *Felician* thus discourses the other.

Signior Ruperio, I have for some days pass'd observed that you have frequented this street more than you ought to have done, and I was somewhat at a loss to Know what might occasion your coming hither, in regard there are several fine Ladies which might incline you thereto; But I have at last discovered that Madam Rosina only is the cause of your daily and nightly Haunts hereabouts; and this I am assured of by my own Eyes, as well as the relation of her Servants, whom you endeavour to corrupt by pre-

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sents to bring you into their Lady's Favour. I have been her Servant for some time, and the Services I have done her have gained me her affection; So that I have received the greatest kindness from her which I could expect, or she could give. I do not usually boast of my good Fortune in such Cases; but to prevent your farther Progress in this matter I am compelled to make you this particular discovery; which I doubt not but you will conceal as a great secret, as a Person of Honour ought to do. I have acquainted you with my Love, and the advantage I have made of it to oblige you to forbear all applications to this Lady for the future; whereby you will secure your self from many inconveniences, and free me from the Resentments which at present Affect me.

Ruperio hearkned attentively to the discourse of Felician, and Rosina's Husband no less, hearing accidentally such things as so nearly concerned him, which though they were extreamly prejudicial to him and his Reputation, yet he was resolved to stay and here what Answer Ruperio would make, which was to this effect.

Signior Felician, I do not at all wonder that you should be so Solicitous in observing the devotion I had for Madam Rosina, since you are so much concerned in it as you affirm to me, and I suppose you will be as little surprized at my being Embarked in the same design, since I find

you

you are ignorant of the grounds of my Love and the Reason I have to prosecute it, I am as unwilling as you to proclaim the Favours I receive from Ladies, but since you unboosome your self to me, I conceive I am obliged to do the like to you, that you may think my proceeding the less strange; I was in the Lady's favour before you, and obtain'd the same thing of her that you so much glory in; By some misfortune or other I have lost it; yet not so; but that I hope in time to Reinstale my self into it again; which to accomplish assure your self I shall do all that lies in my power. If I prevail, and that she will admit the continuance of my service, as I have hopes she may, your only remedy is Patience; for I am so far from quitting my pretensions to her, that I shall do my utmost to prevent her giving entertainment to yours, and reduce her to such a pass, as not so much as to remember that ever you thought of her.

With that they both drew, *Felician* maintaining that he only ought to pretend to her, and *Ruperio* standing upon the same Terms. The dispute was soon ended, his Sword who was in present possession, was the most fortunate, *Ruperio* by a mortal wound falling dead upon the place. The noise of their Swords was not very great, for *Felician* had done his work so suddenly that none heard any thing of the quarrel but only *Savaria*, who for his own reputation

tation would have kept it secret. That the body might not be found in that place, *Felician* took it on his shoulders, and laid it at the Gate of a Monastery, and took refuge in another, till he heard how matters would go.

Savaria confounded at what he had seen and heard, was so enraged against his Wife that he began to contrive how to be Reveng'd of a Woman, whose perfidiousness was the more Notorious, because of the great reason she had to be Grateful and Loyal. She was fast asleep in bed, never dreaming what had happened in the street upon her account. The first thing that came into *Savaria's* thoughts was to go up instantly and dispatch her in bed with a dagger; but he then considered that the murderer having carried away the dead Body from his door, he might be charg'd with Killing her without any cause, and that he should want proof, as having for Witnesses only two Servant Maids, who were more likely to swear against him. He therefore resolved as the surest way, to rid himself of her by a secret Dose of Poyson which might remove her after a certain time; but then he thought he should not satisfy his own just Resentments if he any longer delay'd that vengeance which required immediate execution. He then proposed

posed to himself another Expedient, which was to leave both the City and his Wife, and to retire to some other place, but this design was soon over, he having many Affairs undetermined; and fearing the Sinister opinions which might have been made upon such a Resolution, to the Scandal and Shame of a man of his Age and reputation.

This Reflection brought him to his first design of sending her going with the Ponyard. But before he perpetrated that cruelty, which yet according to *Spanish* Justice, was no Crime, but a just punishment for her Lewdness, he judged it necessary for his own Vindication, to leave in Writing the reasons that induced him to commit this Fact. He took Pen and Paper and began to set down the affront he had received from his Wife, and the satisfaction he had taken; but upon reading it, imagining he had not sufficiently exposed the heinousness of her Fault, he tore what he had written and this he did to the third time, so great was the disturbance and confusion of his thoughts. He set himself down to Write the Fourth time, but upon second thoughts was of opinion that he should be sufficiently aveng'd if he had but once sent his Wife out of the World. A great part of the night wasted in these disquiets, namely in Writing, Correcting,

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and Tearing all he had Written. At length being absolutely resolved in that fancy to prosecute his design, he made another Writing without any blot, having before well considered what he should set down; and when he had exprest in the best manner he could, the irreparable injury he had received, he was suddenly seiz'd with so pressing a grief that he fell down and expired.

All this pass'd while *Rosina* slept. Awakening of a sudden and not finding her Husband in bed with her, She called him, but hearing no answer, she slipt on her Gown and went into his Closet, where she found a Candle lighted, and *Savaria* lying on the Floor dead. She was astonisht, as well she might; all she could do was to call up her Maids, who immediately came to the Sight of this strange Spectacle; they were no less surpriz'd than their Mistress at the strangeness of this Accident. As they were going to convey the Corps to one of the best Rooms in the House, before the neighbours had any notice of the adventure, *Rosina* found a written Paper which seem'd not to be quite finish'd, wherein she found these words.

“ That my Justification may be the better known to all those who shall read this Paper, I declare that all my unhappiness proceeds from the Lightness and Inconstancy

‘ stancy of my infamous Wife, who pro-
 ‘ faneing the holy Sacrament of Marriage,
 ‘ by the Sacred Bond whereof we were
 ‘ joined together in the Face of the Church,
 ‘ without any consideration of the true
 ‘ Love and affection I had for her, hath
 ‘ prostituted her self to two Gallants at
 ‘ the same time, who having quarrel’d for
 ‘ the precedence which either of them pre-
 ‘ tended to have over his Adversary, the
 ‘ more unfortunate was killed by the other
 ‘ before the Window of my House. Ha-
 ‘ ving thus been witness of my own dis-
 ‘ grace, and heard the whole Story of my
 ‘ dishonour, it was but just I should re-
 ‘ venge my disgrace, thus ——— Here
 ended the writing, for death seizing him at
 that word he instantly gave up the Ghost.

Rosina was ev’n distracted with what she
 Saw and Read; So that for some time she
 was deprived of her Senses, upon reflec-
 ting that generally the greatest secrets of
 Debauchery are discovered at last, either
 by Reformation or Punishment of the Act-
 ors. The Death of her Husband afflicted
 her both with fear and grief; Fear to con-
 sider how suddenly he died, occasioned by
 the wrong she had done him; Grief, to see
 her Husband deprived of Life, and her self
 ignorant how to represent so unhappy an
 Accident. A little Remorse of mind, like
 a qualm

a qualm over her Stomach, troubled her that she had been so perfidious to a man who had loved her so well, and by marriage had raised her from beggery to plenty. The great kindness which her neighbours were sensible he always had for her, gave her a little Relief, and induced her to take the Advice of one of her Maids; which was to carry her Husband's body into his bed, and to cry out the next morning so loud that they might hear her; whom by her excessive Lamentations she might persuade that she found him dead by her side when she waked in the morning; and that her two Maids to carry on the Cheat, should give out, that their Master was subject to an Apoplexy, and died suddenly thereof.

Having thus concerted their design, day came, *Rosina* cried out, and lamented with all her might; the next Neighbours coming in found her undressed, weeping, and tearing her hair like one absolutely deprived of her Wits for the loss of so tender an Husband. Her two Maids acted their parts to the Life; relating the cause of their good Master's death. All were satisfied with these reasons, and some of *Rosina's* acquaintance were very busy about her for fear she should have swooned, so perfectly did she personate a disconsolate Widow. They use their utmost endeavours to comfort her, and

and allay her Sorrow, who amidst all her trouble took care to burn the Paper she had found, lest it might have proved an Evidence of her disloyalty.

Some Officers sent by the Magistrates came soon after to her House, who are never wanting upon such occasions, and upon the Allegations of the Neighbours, that the Deceased had ever lived very Lovingly with his Wife, went away, being satisfied that she not any way contributed to his death. *Savaria* was buried, and *Rosina* found it so difficult to act the part she was engaged in, that she did not think of taking care about that which Widows are commonly very solicitous about at such times, that is to make the best provision they can for themselves out of what their Husbands have left behind them. So that one of his Nephews, as soon as the Uncle was buried, seiz'd on all that was in the House, and *Rosina* was forced to go to Law with him to recover what she might lawfully lay claim to.

Let us return to see what became of *Ruperto's* Body. Being found in the morning by the Monks of that Monastery, and not known by any of them, they designed to bury it without Ceremony, had they not been prevented by a Citizen, who advised them to expose it in some publick place that it might be owned, and that if the Per-

son

son had any Relations, they might know the misfortune that had happened to him; and by this means they would secure to themselves the charge of his Interment, and the Fees for other Prayers and Devotions, in order to the repose of his Soul. This Advice pleased the Superiour of the *Convent*, who immediately acquainted the Magistrate, that they had found in the morning a Young Man dead at their Church door. The Body was laid in a little place nigh the Monastery, with two lighted wax Candles; and soon after a Man passed by who knew *Ruperio*, He told them what he was, and then went and carried the sad news to his Friends, who were extreamly greived at his death, his Father having often foretold, him that he would come to such an end; for, from the Life he led, nothing less could be expected. He was buried in the Cloyster, and strict search made for the murtherer; but *Sevil* being a vast and populous City, no discovery could be made of him, only *Rosina* knew who it was by the absence of her Gallant, by *Ruperio's* death, and by the Paper she found in her Husband's Closet; and was extreamly pleased to see her self Revenged of a Person who had put such an unhandsome Trick upon her; and it was her good fortune that no notice was taken of the blood of the deceased in the place

place where he was killed; had the Magistrate known of that, it might have brought her into some trouble, for the Neighbours could have testifi'd that they had often seen these two Rivals in that street.

Rosina is now become a Widow, but without poor and destitute of all accommodations, having only the stock of her beauty left to set her up again; and that together with her honour, if it may be said she had any remaining, She resolved to prostitute, thereby to live in some measure suitable to what she had done before. *Savaria's* Nephew, who had taken possession of his Estate, was obliged to pay something upon the account of her Dower, but it was so inconsiderable, compared to the Port she was wont to bear, that she was forced to leave her house, and take one of a lower Rent; Nor had this Nephew what he expected by being Heir to his Uncle, for his Estate was extreamly intangled, so that after paying the Creditors, he had little left for himself.

Rosina removed to another Quarter of the City, and being rich in Cloaths, and really handsome, did not as many other Widows commonly do, who as soon as their Husbands are marched off, dress themselves as fine as hands can make them, and take all

Opportunities to shew themselves to Gentlemen, out of a design to get other Husbands. But she though young had gained such great Experience, that she resolved to play another Game, and that no small one.

There was come in the Fleet from *Peru* in the *West-Indies*, a Person born among the mountains of *Leon*, who began his fortune in the Station of a Servant to a Merchant at *Sevil*, and upon his Master's Credit and some little Trading into the *Indies*, was grown very Rich, and in a few years was reckoned one of the ablest Merchants that Traded at *Peru*. He at length made a Voyage thither, being advanced to a certain employment, and having thereby much increased his Wealth he returned again to *Sevil* in that years Fleet, where he Sold the Cargo he had brought home at Cent per Cent profit, so fortunate was he in all his Adventures.

Marquina was his Name, a Person about 50 years Old, the most covetous Miser living, grudging himself his Victuals and Cloaths although mean enough, nay Fasted many times to save his Money. He kept no more Servants than he had occasion for, namely a Factor, a Lacquey, and a Moor-Slave who lookt to his Mule, and a Maid to dress his pitiful Victuals. He kept his Family so short of provisions that people wondered.

dred any would serve him; His wretched Humour was the discourse of the whole City; which another would have been ashamed of, but he only laughed at it, applauding himself, and making it his whole business to heap up wealth, whereof he had abundance.

Rosina having this account of him, began to consider all the circumstances, and having reflected thereon, concluded that he might be made an excellent Cully, whom if her Beauty could smite, as she hop'd and expected it might, her Condition would be better than ever it had been. *Marquina* dwelt without the City in a little Tenement he had got of one who owed him some money, which he knew not well how to get in otherwise; for he was naturally so great a slave to his profit that he little minded his pleasures; so that this little neat house came to him at an easy Rate and in satisfaction for his Debt, and stood near *St. Bernard's* Monastery in the midst of a pleasant Valley. He retired hither out of the City for Cheapness, but had so fortified it that he made it as strong as a Goal; inasmuch that no thieves either by night or day could make any breach into it; all the doors were of an extraordinary thickness; the windows were secur'd with Iron Bars and Grates, and the Walls very high and strong. Within

Within he secured it with Fire Arms, which he always kept Charged, Halberts and Partisans being likewise placed near the Gates. He was obliged to take one Person more into his Retinue, that is a Fellow to order his Garden, and to make the best advantage of it he could, a married Man, who should carry the Herbs and Fruits to Market to Sell; Such improvement did his Covetousness make of all things. His Treasure was disposed into a certain secret place behind his bed, where he himself lay, in strong Iron Chests; and every night before he slept, like an over-busy Constable, he made strict search in all the rooms of the House. Thus did this wretched Fellow live, though he had no Children to succeed him, for he had not been married, nor never intended it, though very advantageous Matches were dayly proffered him.

Rosina had a design to bring this Covetous Merchant into a noose, and to effect it she communicated the project to a Person who was a great proficient in such Affairs, and an ancient acquaintance of her Father's Signior *Trapassa*. This man had acted some Cheats at *Madrid*, which occasioned him to remove to *Cadiz*, where his ill practices caused his departure from thence to *Sevil*, where he went lurking up and down, and spending some Money which cost him more hazard

zard than pains to get. He was one of the most accomplisht Persons in point of Theiving of any of his time, but very fearful of falling into the hands of Justice, least some of his former Offences should rise up in Judgment against him: which were such as had prefer'd him to the Gallies, where he had made an acquaintance with *Trapassa*, and continued it at *Sevil*. This Man whose name was *Garay*, *Rosina* took to assist her in compassing her intrigues. Having instructed him in what he had to do, She told him that *Marquina* did not usually return home to his House till about Sun-set; and so both of them contrived to pass by his Garden, he on a Mule and she on a good Horse; having put off her mourning and put on another Dress with a Hat and Feather, as the *Sevil* Ladies are used to be equipt, when they are in the Country.

They passed by the Garden just as the Gardner was opening the door. *Garay* coming up to him, 'Friend, said he, here is a Lady would not willingly go into the City to-day, if you will afford her entertainment this night I will satisfy you according to your desire, besides that, you will do us an extraordinary kindness, for you will thereby prevent a great misfortune which we cannot otherwise avoid. The Gardner, who was afraid of his Master's displeasure, told him he durst not be so

so bold as to receive any Person into his House without his knowledge, though he had not expressly forbidden him the doing of any such thing. But *Garay*, who knew the value and power of money, took some out of his pocket, with which *Rosina* had furnisht him, and offering it to the Gardner, Here Friend, said he, take this in earnest of more. The Gardner's Wife longing to know what business they might have with her Husband, comes up to him, and seeing the proffers were made him, undertook to Lodge the Gentlewoman in her own Room, assuring her Husband their Master should never know it, in regard their Rooms were at some distance from his. Briefly, the Wives argument prevailed, so that the Gardner was content the Lady should lodge secretly that night in his house upon the Receipt of Six Rials, which *Garay* gave him as an earnest of a greater Sum. He therefore took *Rosina* off her Horse, and brought her into the Garden, where she took leave of *Garay*, who had already received the Orders, whereof we shall give an account hereafter.

Being come into the Gardner's Room she took off what covered her face; and astonished the Gardner and his wife, at the Sight of her beauty, though she seemed to be very melancholly, as if some great misfortune

fortune had befallen her, namely, that which she had got by heart, and designed to relate to *Marquina*, in case she should come to the speech of him. The Sun was hardly set when he came into the Garden, the Negro entring a while before to open the door, which he himself lock'd on the inside, and carried the Key with him. He chanc'd to be that night a little more weary than ordinary, which occasioned his going to bed betimes, after he had eaten some of his Garden Fruits, with a piece of Bread, and wash'd them down with a glass of spring water. He only visited that Part of the House where he lodged himself, and came not to the Gardner's, which commonly escaped not his privy search when he thought of it. His Family, which kept more Fasting-days than ever the Church appointed, Supp'd that night very soberly in imitation of their Master.

Marquina got up in the Morning betimes, and gave his slave Money to go to Market, while he went about his affairs in the City, with order to get Dinner ready against his return. *Rosina* was at a loss how to compass her design, things not happening according to her expectation; but still waiting for an opportunity, She told her Entertainess that she was extreemly troubled at her Uncle's stay, as she called *Garay*, and that

that her melancholly was upon that account, though the Gardner's wife, who was a good hearty Woman, found her all the diversion she could.

Marquina came home at noon, intending to dine in his Garden; but before he sat down, he would needs take a turn about it, to see if any thing were amiss, and observing some Knots that wanted boards to keep them in order, he went to the Gardner's to see if he could find any fit for his purpose. The Gardner's wife perceiving him coming, in all haste thrust *Rosina* into a little back Room, where she her self was wont to lye; yet could not do it so suddenly, but that *Marquina* coming in, heard the Ruffling of the Silk, and saw the shadow of *Rosina*. He steps into the Room where she was, and led her out by the hand; Coming into the light, he was surprized at her handsomeness. The Gardner's Wife wondred that her Master instead of chiding her, as she expected, only ask'd her who the Lady was; she replied, that the Night before passing by her door, with an antient Gentleman, who seemed as sorrowful as her self, they had very earnestly intreated the might Lodge there but that night, to avoid a great misfortune that would have happened to them, if they had gone any further.

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While the Gardner's Wife was giving *Marquina* this account, he very Attentively considered the strange Lady, who seem'd to be extreamly troubled in mind, which added to the Attractions of her Beauty.

Marquina was so enchanted therewith, that discarding his unsociable and covetous humour, he told the Gardner's Wife, that she had done well in entertaining the Lady, though without his Orders, which in such a case were not to be observed, where Compassion and Charity plead for the relief of those that are in Trouble; *This Lady, said he, deserves a better Reception than she found in your poor Lodgings, I heartily proffer her the use of my House, if she will honour it with her presence.* *Refina* return'd many thanks for his Civility, and intreated him to allow her the privacy of some other Lodging, for the little time she had to stay there; in regard she expected an Uncle of hers, to come and fetch her away that night.

Marquina, who began to be inflamed, was sorry to hear, that her stay would be so Short; Yet, told her that though it were but for an hour, she would extreamly oblige him in accepting the offer he made her, with so much real affection. She who expected this Event all the while
answered

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answered, that to make some returns for such great obligations, she was ready to wait on him.

Hereupon she went to *Marquina's* Apartment, whither he led her by the hand, to the great satisfaction of the Gardner's Wife, who admired to see her Master, so contrary to his Nature, in such a pleasant complaisant humour. As she pass'd through the Rooms, she took particular notice of all things; for though *Marquina* was of a very covetous temper, yet he seemed prodigal in the Furniture of his House, which was adorned with very rich Tapestry, Chairs Suitable thereto, Cabinets of Ivory and Ebony, and many other Rarities brought from the *West-Indies*, which though they cost not much there, yet are highly valued in *Europe*. He instantly commanded his Slave to prepare a sumptuous Dinner, an employment he undertook with great chearfulness, as knowing he should fare well by this extraordinary Liberality of his Master. *Rosina* Dined with him, who Treated her all the while with the best the Table afforded, making many excuses that he had no better for her.

After Dinner he conducted her into a Room, beautified with a great number of Curious Pictures, and a noble Bed of embroidered Velvet, intreated her to repose
her

herself thereon, according to the *Spanish* Custom after they have Dined, by reason of the heat of the Country. He likewise intreated her to give some remission to her Grief, since she might be assured, that she should be as safe in his House as in any Sanctuary, and that she should want nothing which was in his power. She again returned her most affectionate thanks, and complying with his desire, stayed alone in the Room where *Marquina* slept every day. He went into another, where he laid himself down, much disquieted, as being fallen deeply in love with his fair Guest, contriving how he might induce her to grant his desire, which if he could effect, he thought he should be the happiest Man in the World. Before he acquainted her with his design, he was desirous to know the cause of her discomposure, and what might occasion her stopping at his Garden, that he might thereby discover whether there were any obstructions that might hinder the accomplishment thereof. He waited till she was awake; who slept not at all, but lay considering what answer she should make when he came to question her.

Marquina thinking it was now time to speak to her, in order to the satisfaction of his Curiosity, goes into her Chamber, telling her it was a cloudy day, and he

was afraid she might have over-slept herself, humbly asking pardon for presuming to come into her Apartment. She made him many acknowledgements for the Tenderness he shewed for her health, assuring him, that she could have no Refreshment, the trouble she was in not permitting her to take any rest. He intreated her no longer to conceal the cause of her disquiet, and renewed the offers he had made to serve her to the utmost of his ability. Having returned him thanks, and thinking it was now time to make some progress in her Plot, she gave him the following Relation of her Adventures.

Granada, One of the most Famous and Eminent Cities in Spain is the place of my Birth. My Parents, whom it is not material to name, are of the most Antient and Noble Families in all the Mountains of old Castile, and the whole Issue of their Matrimony, was only a Brother of mine and my self. My Brother spent the youthful part of his Life in Courting of Ladies, and among other young Persons like himself, plaid some lewd Pranks, which obliged him, for fear of falling into the hands of Justice, to absent himself from Granada. As for my Part, I made it my business, to serve and honour those who had brought me into the World. I employed the day at my Needle, not taking example from my Companions, who only mind-

her- ed their Divertisements. Nay, I was so ig-
 ming norant of what Love meant, that I laugh'd at
 made whatever related thereto, and thought those that
 Ten- wasted their time in Courtships; and entertain-
 uring ing those they called their Gallants, little bet-
 ment, ter than so many Distracted Persons. But Love
 g her it seems would punish this Contempt of mine,
 r no and you shall hear in what manner.

My Father and Mother being one day go-
 ing to visit a Friend of theirs in the Country,
 Ha- who had Buried his Wife not long before, I heard
 ng it in the street the clashing of Swords, as if some
 fs in Gentlemen were a Fighting; I looked out of
 Re- the Window to see what was the matter; I had
 never been guilty of such a Curiosity before,
 and it was my unhappiness that I did not avoid
 d E- it then; for I should not now be relating my
 Birth- misfortunes, which are such that I never re-
 ame, member them without Tears. I there saw to
 milies my sorrow, three Men with their Swords drawn
 d the fighting against one, who defended himself
 ly a with so much Courage, that he not only made
 other his Party good a long time against so many E-
 rting nemies, but also wounded two of them in the
 like Head, he himself having received only a
 obli- light hurt. These three Bullies finding them-
 ds of selves so warmly attackt by one Person, resol-
 As- ved to do their utmost to dispatch him; So
 e and ed to do their utmost to dispatch him; So
 rld. at exasperated by their Wounds and the dis-
 taking race, they press'd him so hard that he was for-
 mind- ed to retreat into one of our Gates, where

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they gave him two several thrusts into the Breast; upon which he fell, and was left for dead. Moved with Compassion to see such a gallant young Man so disadvantageously assaulted, I came down to the Gate, calling my Maids about me to see what might be done for his relief, our House being in an obscure street and very few appearing at the noise we made and those unarmed, so that they were unable to part them. We brought the young Man in, locked the doors, and a Surgeon was instantly called. His wounds were so desperate, that we thought best to put him to Bed in a ground Room where my Brother used to lye.

The young Man thanked me very Civilly for this Favour, but alas! that good Office begun in Compassion, ended in Love. The Surgeon viewed his wounds, but could not at present give any certain Judgment of them, though he whispered me in the ear that he judged them mortal. This word struck me to the heart, for having seen him fight so Valiantly, I must needs acknowledge that I had an inclination for him; but his kind expressions afterwards, his gentele manner of acknowledging my Kindness and the obligations I had laid upon him, raised it into a perfect Love. My Father and Mother returned from their Visit, and before they came home, were told by one of their Neighbours what had happened to a Person of Quality in their absence, and that I put a period to

into the Quarrel he had with three Bravo's, by receiving the wounded Party into their House out of Charity, to prevent his being murdered by his Enemies. When they saw the young Gentleman they commended the charitable office I had done in such an extremity, they being Persons who embraced all opportunities to exercise their kindness to the distressed. They bid the young Man take heart, assuring him he should want nothing the House could afford. Upon which I spent most of my time in waiting on him who was afterward the cause of all the Troubles and Afflictions that now lie so heavy upon me. At the second Dressing the Surgeon assuaged me his wounds were not dangerous, which occasioned much joy in our Family, but to me in particular, who became every day more passionately in Love with him. As often as I could get out of my Father's Sight, I went to pass away the time in his Chamber, for which favour he made me extraordinary acknowledgments.

This young Cavalier was Born at Pampalona, and one of the most eminent persons in the City. His business at Granada was to prosecute a Law Suit against a very powerful Person, who finding little Justice on his side in a cause of great importance, and tho' he made Interest in Court, the Judges must pass sentence against him, would put a period to the Suit the surest way, and rid himself of his Adversary, by employing three of his own Menial Servants to

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Murder him. It was a month before Leonardo (so was the wounded Man called,) got out of his bed, having all that time been attended by me with the greatest Tenderness and Care. The second day after his getting up, he had the opportunity to discourse with me; for my Mother was gone abroad upon a Visit, wherein I did not accompany her, having more mind to stay at home with my young Gallant. He discovered his Sentiments to me so warmly, and gave me such assurances of his affection, that it raised no less Love in me towards him; insomuch that there pass'd mutual promises of Fidelity between us. All this while I knew nothing of my Father's being then upon a Treaty of Marriage between me and a Gentleman of Granado, who was exceeding desirous to enter into our Alliance, while I was very well satisfied with the Choice I my self had made. Leonardo coming to hear the Pretensions the other made to me, was not a little Concerned, but the only remedy was patience, in regard he would make no discovery of his Estate, till the Law-Suit was ended, which he hoped would shortly be, and I in the mean time endeavour'd to persuade my Father not to be over-hasty in concluding my Marriage with the Granadine.

Leonardo being perfectly cured, and requiting the kindness, and handsome entertainment he had received at our House, with many considerable Presents, returned to his own Quar-

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A Notorious CHEAT. 51

ters, to bring the business to a final end. For my part, my troubles increased more upon me, for my Father never giving me any notice of it, as if I had been a Person not at all concerned, concluded the contract with the Granadine, and gave him his word he should marry me; when I came to understand it, I was so disturbed in my mind, that I regarded nothing I was about; this new Servant of mine, who expected ere long to be my Master, came to give me a Visit, but was soon satisfied that he had reckoned without his Hostess: for having flattered himself into a foolish imagination that he should have found the kindest Reception in the world from me, he met with such a Repulse, that he concluded it must rather proceed from an Aversion, than any indifference I had for him. And knowing the wounded Leonardo had some time lodged in our House, he presumed my disdain of him, proceeded from the Love I had for that Gentleman. The Jealousy which he conceived upon this presumption, incited him to make Trial of all the ways he could imagine to be assured of it, so that he might not do anything whereof he should afterwards repent; Which if all hot spirits would consider, it might prevent many groundless Quarrels. I was in an extraordinary perplexity during these Transactions. I acquainted Leonardo with my Condition, who came to see me that night, and at length we agreed that I should leave my Father's

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House the night following, and go to some of his Relations, where we might be secretly married.

The expected hour being come, Unhappy hour to me, considering the many misfortunes I have suffered since; as my Dearest and I were going out of the House, and crossing another street, we met my Jealous Servant, who had spent some nights to discover what he now found too true. He presently knew us, and being attended by his Servants, fell upon Leonardo, never thinking of any such surprise. So that before he had time to draw his Sword, he received three mortal wounds, and fell down dead, without speaking a Word. The noise the Murderers made, occasioned the Neighbours to come out with their Lights, upon the appearance whereof they retired to prevent being discovered. By this time there was a great stir at my Father's, for my being missed; while I was in a manner dead to see my Love lying breathless at my Feet. Being a little recovered, I thought it not convenient to stay in the street after such an Accident, so I went in all haste, to a Friend's House of my Father's, an aged Person, and very poor, to whom I related what had befallen me, and how much it concerned me not to stay any longer at Granada; whereupon getting a Horse, he mounted me thereon, and brought me to the next Village, where he got another, and came from thence hither to avoid the fury of

my Father, who accompanied by Officers, makes a search after me, as I have understood by the way. For that reason I thought it not safe for us to go into Sevil as soon as we came hither, but that I had better conceal my self in some place near it. It was the pleasure of Fortune to direct me to this Habitation of yours, into which upon my extraordinary Intreaties, your Gardner ventured to receive me this last night. Thus, Sir, you have the story of a wretched Maid, if there ever was any; whose only Comfort now is in the kind entertainment you are pleased to afford me, and I doubt not but your Charity will be requited, since there can be none more greater than to Relieve such as are Afflicted, and persecuted in that deplorable manner as I am.

THIS Romantick dismal Tale which Rosina had invented, and got by heart, was concluded with a shower of Crocodile Tears, which raised such Compassion in Marquina, that he himself could not forbear weeping. The Subtile Cheat perceiving that he gave Credit to her Feigned Story, and that Love began to enter at the breach, which compassion had made in his heart, was encouraged to prosecute her design, which she now seemed almost confident to bring to effect. They continued some time together, she Sobbing and Crying as if it had been for a Wager, and he using

54 *The Life of Donna Rosina,*

his utmost endeavours to comfort her; which yet came not up to the height of proposing a Remedy, as she could have wish'd, for he had not yet abandoned his covetous humour.

Having with much niceness, and attention, considered the great beauty of *Rosina*, with her Afflictions and strange Adventures, he concluded that this happiness was as it were fallen into his mouth, as a signal addition to his former prosperity. This was the first time that ever Love attackt *Marquina's* heart, and therefore acted more violently; Is *Marquina* fallen in Love? He must needs then be Liberal: Hath he entertained *Rosina* into his House? That kindness will be the dearest to him that ever he had. O Love, what dispositions dost thou not change, and what heart is so hard, that it is not in thy power to soften? Love hath changed the temper of this insatiable Miser, who had cast off all sense of humanity to his nearest Relations, into a Liberal and magnificent Lover. He is extreamly smitten with *Rosina*, he is passionately in Love with her; and she will e're long be Mistress of his Heart and Wealth too. She related many improbable things in her story, which might have betrayed her, had not the affection wherewith *Marquina* harkned to her closed both
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his Eyes and Ears ; nay he was so bewitched by this Passion, that he would have believed more unlikely things than these.

The effect of this doleful Narration of *Rosina* was, that *Marquina* assured her of all the favour and affection she could expect from him, even his Estate, Life, Heart, and Soul, making her the absolute Mistress of all he was possess of ; Intreating her to forget her misfortunes, and to be confident that she was in an House where she might command, and all her Orders should be strictly obeyed, as far as it was in his power. *Rosina* returned him many thanks for his generous Offers, concluding her Compliments with a fresh shower of Tears ; which she had at command when ever she pleased or stood in need of them.

With these Artifices, she became Mistress of *Marquina*, and all he had, so that she might dispose of him and it as she pleased. Her Beauty had wounded him, and he was mighty desirous to Try whether she would be as willing to Cure him. But he cannot contrive how to acquaint her with his malady. He resolved at last that if he could not prevail upon her by Submissions and Presents, he would use the last Remedy, which was to marry her. This is a Bait that many times catches the most Subtle of that Sex ; but he that uses
it

§6 *The Life of Donna Rosina,*

It has cause most commonly to repent. *Rosina* had no other design than to examine the Chests of the greedy Merchant, and would be no way engaged till she was secure of the Prize; for the rascally Trick *Ruperio* had play'd her, made her extream distrustful.

Marquina staid all that day in his Garden, and neglected his business in the City; but next Morning, leaving his Lady asleep, he takes his Mule, and goes about his ordinary occasions, having charged the Gardner's Wife to provide a good Breakfast for his Mistress as soon as she was awake, and to have a care of the House. He lock'd the Chamber door where his Money was, and as he went out commanded the Gardner not to suffer any one to come into his Garden, but the old Man that brought *Theodora* thither, for that was the name the hypocritical *Rosina* had given her self.

He then went away attended by a little Negro, to whom he gave Money to buy provision for dinner. *Rosina* got up, and the Gardner's Wife punctually perform'd the Orders she had received from her Master, Treating her the best she could, that so all the Servants might be partakers of this magnificence. *Rosina* comes down into the Garden, where she took occasion to commend

commend the Walks and Contrivances of it, for the Gardener kept it in good Order, and well furnished with Herbs, Fruits, and Flowers.

Finding the Sun beginning to grow hot, she went into the House, where meeting with a Lute on which *Marquina's* Factor was wont to play. She put it in Tune, and made that her Entertainment, till *Marquina* return'd from the City, who hearing her playing on it, was wonderfully pleas'd to find one perfection in her more than he knew before. She perceiving that *Marquina* hearkned to her Musick, joined her Voice to the Instrument to enchant him more if possible, than he was already. She sung so sweetly that *Marquina* was ravished at the Musick, so that he made her this high Complement, that he could not imagine it to be the voice of any mortal Creature, but rather that of an Angel descended from above; and coming towards her Transported with Joy, How, says he, hath my poor Habitation been honoured by your Retirement into it, most adorable *Theodora*? What happiness hath your arrival blest me with, who never knew any before? What Felicity have I received in beholding your Transcendent Beauty, and to observe in you a thousand unknown excellences

cellencies, which I could not discover at first sight.

You press too hard upon me, Dear Sir, replies the counterfeit *Theodora*, and put me to the blush with your excessive Praises; I am not such a Stranger to my-self, but that I must account it Flattery, to bestow such extraordinary Commendations on a Person that deserves so little; Had I mistrusted you had heard me I would have deter'd my diversion to another time, since probably my voice may seem untunable to you compar'd to the excellent Songsters in this City; unless generous natures have an inclination to favour Persons of mean performances, and persuade them their accomplishments exceed what indeed they are. No more compliments I beseech you, dear Lady, says *Marquina*, now raised up to the highest pitch of besotted Love; My expressions proceed from my heart, and I can assure you, Madam, that though I have heard celebrated Voices in *Sevil*, yet yours is beyond any of them.

Your most humble Servant, says *Rosina*, the honour you are pleased to allow me, makes me heartily wish that my poor abilities might find you some further diversion with this Instrument, since you acknowledge your self so much satisfied therewith; But my Troubles are so great and

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Pressing that I only minded my own ease in what I did. I must see your Sorrows at an end, replies *Marquina*, before you leave this House; Let me intreat you therefore, sweet Lady, if you cannot absolutely free your mind from Ruminating upon your Afflictions, yet to condescend to a short Cessation of them. This renewing of your kindness, says she, must needs extreamly oblige me, and consequently force me to a grateful compliance with your Commands, as far as lies in my power; but I cannot promise it you so fully as you wish; because that the Person that brought me hither, seems to have forgot that he was to return and fetch me away; otherwise he would have found some means to have given me a Visit once in three days. Let not that create you any trouble, replies the generous Merchant, but rather imagine there may be some just cause for his neglect; I am somewhat apprehensive, says she, that he may be returned to *Granada*, for fear least being miss'd, he should be questioned as accessory to my escape; and this would prove the greatest of all my Misfortunes, for if he be gone, he hath carried all I had along with him. Never fear that, cries *Marquina*, for he must have more Compassion than to forsake you in so great an extremity; but though he and all others

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fail you, assure your self I shall not, and I implore you to believe this my sincere protestations, that I am so passionately your Servant, that I cannot think my self the same Person I was before I saw you.

He then proceeded to make an absolute discovery of his Love to her ; but the cunning Gipsy pretending she did not understand his meaning, returned him a Civil Answer to the proffers he made her ; Repeating her former acknowledgments for his kindness, and not doubting the performance of what he out of his natural goodness was pleased to promise her. Dinner was now come in, and they both sat down ; the entertainment was very Noble and Suitable to the Love of the Founder, who seemed to have banished all business and Avarice out of his mind.

Rosina and *Garay* had agreed together, that he should come to her when he was sure the old Merchant was abroad, and that he should disguise himself like a Beggar, so as not to be known, nor any suspicion might be conceived by him. She had contrived several ways to defraud the Merchant of some part of his Treasure, but could fix on none that she thought might prove effectual, the Room wherein it was lock'd up being strongly Fortified, but at length she cunningly discovered the place where the wretched

wretched Miser hid the Keys of his Iron Chests.

Marquina went as usual into the City, which being observed by *Garay*, he comes to the House in Beggar's Weeds with two Crutches. Being got under the window where *Rosina* look'd out, he begg'd an Alms of her. She threw down something and asked him from whence he came, who answering from *Granada*, she seem'd extream glad, and turning to the Gardner's Wife, Says she, let us go down into the Garden; this poor Fellow is come out of my Country, and I would fain have some discourse with him, to know what News he hath brought from thence. The poor Woman suspecting nothing, made no difficulty to let her go into the Garden. *Rosina* askt him how long it was since he left *Granada*, he replyed nine or ten days; she continued her Questions so long that the Gardner's Wife weary of their discourse, and having somewhat else to do, left them. Being rid of her, they consulted what was to be put in execution the night following, and agreed what course they were to take to possess themselves of *Marquina's* Money.

This done *Garay* departed, and *Rosina* went to her Chamber, telling the Gardner's Wife, that she had understood so much from the poor Fellow concerning her

her Affairs, that she should shortly return into her own Country: The Gardner's Wife and the Maid were not very well pleased to hear that News, fearing their Master, after her departure, should resume his nig-gardly Humour, and keep as miserable an House as he had done before, nay hap-ly put himself and all his Servants to a greater penance in their Diet, to save what he had squandied away, during her abode there.

Marquina, upon his return home at Night, found *Rosina* more cheerful than at any time before, which encouraged him to acquaint her more freely of his Love than he had done before; and to assure her of the disquiet he had been in upon her Account. *Rosina* seem'd pleased there-with, and by her Familiarity gave him some hopes of seeing his Desires satisfied: Upon this Presumption, he presented her with a Diamond Ring which cost him above 100 Crowns. The Lady gave him many Thanks for so noble a Present; and in requital, play'd him a Lesson on the Lute, to which she sung some new Airs, though she complained that the Instru-ment was out of Tune: However, *Mar-quina* was so pleased with the Harmony, that he promised her a better Present next Day, expecting to oblige her thereby to grant

grant him the Favour he so earnestly expected; though in the mean while, *Rosina* employed all her Thoughts in contriving how to compass the Robbery she intended.

The next Day *Garay*, who was well experienced in such Affairs, procured some others of the same Profession to assist him in the Work; and having observed *Marquina* going into his House, they staid till he was gone to Bed, which was somewhat late; for *Rosina*, who held a Correspondence with them, had purposely kept him up. About Midnight *Garay* and his Comrades brought a Thing in the shape of a Man, stuffed with Straw, with a Cloak which covered his Face, and planted it on a Stake over-against the principal Window toward the Garden, which was that part of the House where *Marquina* lodged. The Night was somewhat dark, and proper for their Plot. Having thus placed the Figure, they knockt so loud at the door, that it might have been heard from one end of the Garden to the other. *Marquina* awakned thereby, leaped out of his Bed, being surprized at what had never happened to him before. He called to his Servant, and bid him see who knockt; he between sleeping and waking, went and cry'd as loud as he could, Who knocks there? but no body answering, and he not minding

ing the Figure that stood near the Wall, told his Master there was no body.

Marquina thereupon got into bed again, and composed himself to rest, but it was soon interrupted; for *Garay* knockt more violently than before, which so astonished him, that he sent his Man the second time to know what the matter was; who returning with the same account, that he could see no body. *Marquina* got up himself, and calls out of the Window, *Who knocks at the door thus unseasonably?* No answer being made, he grew more enraged, but looking a little more stoutly about the House than his Servant had done, he perceived the Figure planted before his Window. *Marquina* was extremely surprized at the sight of the Person who had made that great disturbance, and yet gave him no Answer; and assuming more Courage than he was naturally master of, he boldly cryed out, 'Tis basely done of you, Sir, to abuse me thus, you shall find that I am a Person that will not suffer such Affronts, pray walk about your Business, and do not affront me any more, except you think your self invulnerable, and that a brace of Bullets will make no Impression on your enchanted Skin.

Having made this Bravado, he shut the Window and went to Bed; but he was hardly

hardly warm in it, when the knocking was renewed with more Violence than before, which obliged him to take a Musquet that he always kept by him charged for the Security of his Money. Opening the Window, he found the Image continued in the same posture; 'What Impudence is this' in you, said he very much enraged, to do Mischief only for the sake of Mischief in disturbing my Rest, without any benefit to your self, 'tis unpardonable, and deserves exemplary Punishment: Whereupon, cocking his Piece, he aimed at him; and the other never stirring, as it were out of a Presumption that he had no Fire-arms to make good his Threatnings, he gave him notice a third time, that he would provoke him to that which he was unwilling to do: At length, observing that he did not regard any thing he said, he resolved to give Fire, not only to fright him, but to hit him; he shot, and the Figure fell to the ground; upon which *Garay*, who was not far off, cries out with a doleful Voice, *Oh, I am killed!* and immediately he and his Crew made a great noise, at the sight of a Man so unfortunately killed.

Marquina was wonderfully concerned for what he had done, covetous Persons being generally cowardly, and soon fright-
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ed at the Thoughts of any loss. He shut the Window, and in a great fright waking *Rosina*, who had greater things in her Head than to mind sleeping, acquainted her with what he had done. She seemed as much troubled at it as he, and much blamed him for executing so cruel a Resolution; for since he knew himself to be safe enough in his own House, he might have suffered them to knock till they had been weary; and had better have endured that noise, than to bring himself into so much danger by killing a Man; adding several other Reasons, which so confounded poor *Marquina*, that he knew not what to do: She advised him for his safety to take Sanctuary immediately at *St. Bernard's* Monastery, since if the dead Persons were found at his Door, he would be certainly sent to Prison, as being murdered so near his House. *Marquina* was so perplexed, that he wish'd he had never been born; and no question, had not *Rosina* been highly concerned to dissemble upon this occasion, she must needs have died with Laughing, as being privy to the whole Intrigue. He call'd up his People, telling them what had happened, who all blamed him for committing so rash an Action, which made the poor old Dotard almost mad. He imagined himself already apprehended, his Money

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Money carried away, and but a short time between him and the Gallows; at least if he were obliged by Fortune to acknowledge the Crime; never considering that it was justifiable for one Man to Kill another in his own defence. At last he resolved to go to St. Bernard's, but knew not how to dispose of his Money. He thought it not prudence to leave it at the discretion of his Servants, or to carry it to a Friend's house, if he had any, (for Persons of his humour have very few) he had not time.

In this distraction, he desired Rosina's advice, she seeming very much disturbed, and no less fearful than he, pretended she could not give him any; but after a little Pause, She gave him that Counsel which she had prepared long before, Asking him what Money he had in the House; He ingeniously confess'd that he had about four thousand Crowns in Gold, and about half that sum in Silver; *I'll tell you what I would do, (said this Subtle Baggage) were I in your Case; since it cannot be carried to a Friends House without being seen, I would bury it in the Garden, in some place where you may find it afterwards, by setting some mark near it. This you must do your self, not suffering your Servants to know any thing of it, lest they should be tempted to prove false to you; for the times are now so bad that one does not know who*

to trust. I would assist you herein and keep your Council, but that I am afraid when the search comes to be made, and I am left here, I shall be the first taken; and I would be loth to run my self into danger, having but just escaped that trouble I have acquainted you with.

In the midst of his Calamities, *Marquina* was grieved to perceive by the discourse of his Mistress, that she was much disturbed upon his account, and what he laid much to heart was, that he saw himself in danger of losing her. This consideration not only forced Tears from his Eyes, but made him likewise use bitter exclamations against the malice of his Fortune. *Rosina* desired him to be of good Courage, persuading him to follow her Advice, and to hope the best. So having commanded his Servants to go to their several Chambers, and not stir from thence, He and *Rosina*, whom only he durst trust, went to the place where his Money was; It lay in an huge Chest covered over with Iron Bars, and the Keys were so artificial, that it was impossible to counterfeit them, or to get a peice thence, otherwise then by the Plot invented by our cunning Robber.

They first took out all the Silver, and then put the Gold into a little Box; Bringing all into the Garden, they made two holes at some distance one from the other;

in one they put the Silver, and in the other the Gold, setting a Mark that they might find the place again. *Marquina* took along with him two hundred Crowns in Gold, and gave *Rosina* Fifty to shift for her self till the business was accommodated.

That done they went up into the House where they might see several Persons walking with Lights, *Garay* and his Comrades being there, who represented the Magistrate; which *Rosina* shewing him persuaded him to make all the haste he could to St. *Bernard's*. To do this they got over the Garden Wall, being afraid to open the Door, for they perceived the Actors of this Tragi-comedy kept a Watch there with such Decorum, as if they had been really the officers of Justice. All *Marquina's* Family followed him over the Wall, fearing they might come into trouble for their Master's fault. *Marquina* and his Lady lurk'd some where there about, till it was day that they might find the Monastery Gates open. *Garay* was hard by to observe what became of *Marquina* and his People; Finding he had left his House, and got into Sanctuary with *Rosina*, he went about an hour after Sun-rising to St. *Bernard's* in the habit of a Secular Priest, that he might the better speak with *Rosina*. She told him how matters stood, that they

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had

had buried the Money in the Garden, and that it was all in silver, intending to Reserve all the Gold for her self.

Rosina came out of the Monastery, and disguised in Man's Cloaths, met with *Garay* and one of his Companions about midnight; All three went to the Garden they helpt her over the Wall first, to go and see whether any Body were in the House, but they were all vanished, as if it were infected. She thereupon called *Garay* and his Companion, having taken up the Silver they carried it to one of the farthest Inns in the Suburbs. Having been merry a while and drank their own Healths and to the lucky success of their future designs they went to bed, the two Men together; and *Rosina* by her self. As soon as she found they were asleep, she puts on the same Habit and returns to the Garden. She took up the Box of Gold, and without any disaster, got safe to the Inn before her Companions were awake. The next day having divided the Silver, of which she and *Garay* had the greatest share, sewed up the Gold in her Clothes, she left *Sevil*, taking *Garay* along with her, who being sensible what advantages he might gain in her Company, resolved to run fortunes with her. They took their way towards *Madrid*, to which place they will arrive

arrive by that time we shall see what became of *Marquina*, whom we left in *St. Bernard's Monastery*. Having continued there four Days after *Rosina* left him, he knew not what to think of her that she came not again according to her promise. He addressed himself to one of the Monks, who had much acquaintance in the City, and intreated him to inquire whether there were any proceedings against him for the Murther he had committed. The Fryar promised to give him an account of it; He accordingly inquired at all Places where he might most probably know any thing of the business, but no body could give him any satisfaction, not having heard any thing of it. He thereupon assured *Marquina* he might safely go abroad, and need fear nothing; He went out one Night to a Friend's House, whom he acquainted with all that had past, as also the great perplexity he was in, desiring him to make a more particular Scrutiny into the Affair, than he thought the Monk had done. He did so and gave him the same account as the other; Yet would not that satisfy him, but he desired his Friend to go to his House, whereof he gave him the chief Key. He went but found no body in it, and his Mule dead for want of Food. He returns with the News to *Marquina*, advising him to

come out of the Monastery, and go home, and thence about the City as he was wont to do. The death of his Mule did not much trouble him, so glad was he to find himself once more at Liberty; the only thing that gave him any disquiet was, that his *Theodora* came not to see him. But he imagined that the cause of it might be, that being a young Virgin, she had sheltered her self some where to keep out of the hands of Justice, or that haply she might have been met with by her Father, who as she had told him sought after her.

He went to his House, whither came soon after, the Gardner, his Wife, and the other Servants. He goes into the Garden, and notwithstanding all the Terror and distraction he had been in, remembered the place where he had hid his Money, and was not a little Glad to find the Mark where he had set it; so that before he went to bed he resolved to secure his Treasure in its former Citadel. As soon as it was dark, he took the Gardner and a Lanthorn and Candle with him, and goes first where the Silver was, and bids him Dig; He did so, but there was nothing to be found, whereat *Marquina* was wonderfully surprized. He went thence to the place where they had laid the Gold, and there met with as little, only *Rosina* knew what was

was become of all. He walked several turns about the Garden with much vexation, imagining the marks might be displaced; but what with looking for them, and what with Digging, the morning came; so that at last despairing of finding any thing he behaved himself like a distracted Person. The Gardner knew not what he look'd for, nor for what he had brought him thither. The poor Man resolved to have a little patience, and to make a fresh search in the Morning, having still some hopes of finding what he had hid. He went to Bed, or rather to lie down in insufferable Torments; but as soon as it was day break he got up, and calling the Gardner, they return'd to the work they had been at the night before. Having digged again in those Places, where he was confident he had laid the Money, all they could discover was, that there had been two holes made there before, and that Money or something else had been hidden there, but all was removed. This assurance made him stark mad, running his head against the Wall, throwing himself on the Ground, and acting such Frantick things, as raised Compassion in his Servants; who from thence concluded that he had lost his Money, and suspected the feign'd *Theodora* had robb'd him, by the orders he gave them to search after

her all over the City. But she was far enough out of his reach, and had so well secured his Money, that it was never like to come into his Chests any more. He kept his bed for sometime out of meer vexation that he so soon lost, what had cost him many years trouble and pains to get together. The Robbery was soon divulged over all the City; some who knew not his humour, pitied his misfortune, but such as were acquainted with his insatiable Avarice, were not a little pleased to see him so justly punished.

The End of the First Part.

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THE
LIFE
OF
Donna Rosina,
A
Notorious CHEAT.

The Second Part.

OUR Accomplisht Cheat having done her Work at *Marquina's*, and made a broken Merchant of one who was counted the wealthiest Man about *Sevil*, she thought it prudential not to make any long stay there, for fear of falling into the hands of Justice, whose Officers would certainly be upon the search for her upon the

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Sollicitations of the Party Robb'd. She was got far enough off e're he was sensible of his loss; for the next night, after they had carried off the Money, she and Garay hired two Mules, and came to *Carmona*, about half a days Journey from *Sevil*; they had bespoke two Places in the *Madrid* Coach, which was to pass through that City, and take them up as they passed by. They lighted at one of the best Inns in *Carmona*, where *Rosina*, Keeping out of Sight, expected the Coach; pleasing herself with the thoughts of what preferment she might come to in time, being already Mistress of four thousand Crowns in Gold, which with a little Silver was all that this penurious Miser had scrap'd together during his whole Life, with much Pains, and many an hazardous Voyage to Foreign Countries. Observe here the exemplary punishment of such miserable Wretches, who are meer Slaves to their own wealth; and whose misfortunes the World are rather apt to rejoyce at, than bemoan; For how can they expect others should have any kindness for them, when they themselves have none for any thing but what they hoard up in their Coffers.

The Coach which our Fortunate Adventurers expected to carry them to *Madrid*, came at its usual time to *Carmona*.

There

There were in it already Six Persons, a Gentleman, and his Lady, a Priest, Two University Scholars, and a Servant belonging to the Priest, a Young Lad about 15 years of Age. They all knew that there were two Persons to be taken in at *Carmena*, who had paid somewhat extraordinary for the best Places; they accordingly resigned them when they saw them come in to the Coach; but *Garay* who was a very Civil and obliging Person, recommended his to the Gentleman's Lady, whom he seated on the left side of *Rosina*, and sat himself at the forepart of the Coach with her Husband. All being placed to their content, they thought it a great happiness that they had met with so good Company. But *Rosina* and *Garay* had another secret satisfaction arising from the thought of the good prize they had brought into such agreeable Company. The Gentleman was a Person of excellent discourse, the Priest of a very sociable humour, and the Scholars made it appear that they had not mispent their time in the University, every one being desirous to make the best discovery he could of his Abilities.

Being come within a Musket shot of the ancient City of *Corduba*, the Metropolis of the Kingdom while the Moors were possess'd of all *Spain*, after Sunset, an unexpected

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pected accident caus'd them to make a halt. Two Gentlemen being come out into the Fields upon a challenge which one had sent the other, and having fought, one was run through the Body in two several Places; which had obliged his Adversary to make his escape, and get into some Church for Sanctuary. The wounded Person cryed out for a Priest to receive his Confession just as the Coach passed by, which being heard, the Priest who was named Doctor *Monfatio*, could do no less than get out, accompanied by *Garay* and *Rosina*, who had a great desire to see the wounded Man. They came to him and as soon as the Doctor had received his Confession, and given him Absolution, he lost his Speech, being supported by *Garay*. The Priest returned to the Coach, and having called several times upon *Rosina*, who pretended she could not get away *Garay*. The Coachman perceiving it grow dark, put on his Horses, having sent them word what Inn he should take up. *Rosina* was much troubled to see the Coach gone, having left her and *Garay* behind, charitably exhorting the Dying Person to Repentance; but he was so far gone, that to spare their further exhortations he gave up the Ghost. They were much troubled what to do with the Body, when some Officers of Justice came to them.

them, who seeing at a distance the dead Person in the Arms of *Garay*, and a Woman standing by, and having likewise notice before, that two Men were seen to go out of the City with a design to fight a Duel, presently imagined that *Garay* was one of them, and consequently the Murderer of the other; upon which presumption he was seized and sent to Prison, and order given to the Goaler to take care to secure him. *Rosina* had more favour, being confined in one of the Officers Houses, with a charge to see her forth coming. They both used all the Arguments they could to clear themselves from being any way concerned in the murder, alledging upon what occasion they came to the Body; but their own words would not be taken, and it was presumed the Duel had been upon the account of the Woman; the Judge order'd her to be brought to his own House to be farther examin'd: when she came thither, the Room was full of Gentlemen, and among others a very rich *Italian* Merchant, whom some business of his own had brought thither; they had no sooner seen *Rosina*, but they all admired her Beauty and majestick Air, but especially the *Italian*, who was of an amorous Constitution. *Rosina* was much offended that such an affront should be put upon her

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her by the way, being sensible that if they were detained the next day, She should lose the opportunity of continuing their Journey. The Judge askt her several questions about the Duel, and the Gentleman's death; who replied, she knew nothing of the occasion; but was coming in the *Sevil* Coach to go to *Madrid*, accompanied by some other Persons then in an Inn in that Town, which she named; that as the Coach pass'd by, a certain Person who had been wounded in the High-way not far from them, call'd out for some Person to receive his Confession, and that a Priest who was with them went out to do it, whom she also followed out of Curiosity, accompanied by an Uncle, who went along with her to see the wounded Man.

Hereupon the Judge ordered in regard it was grown late, that the business should be adjourn'd till next day, that a more strict inquiry might be made into it, and in the mean while, that all who came in the Coach, should not stir from *Corduba* without permission. *Rosina* was then brought back to lodge in the Officer's House that night. The *Italian* who lodg'd not far from it accompanied her; but though he had lived at a far greater distance, he would have thought the way but short to wait

wait upon a Lady with whom he was deeply in Love. He took his leave of her at the Officer's House, assuring her that he should think himself happy to serve her in all things that lay in his Power, for which she thanked him; reckoning it only as a Compliment. But the vexation she conceived at her being thus unexpectedly confined, brought her into a Tertian Fever.

The next day all the Persons who came in the Coach being examined, gave the same account that *Rosina* had done before. whereupon *Garay* was set at Liberty. Other witnesses also who knew something concerning the Duel were heard, and made the Judges a clear discovery of the Murder, *Garay* went immediately to visit *Rosina*, expressing himself extremely concerned at her indisposition. He did all he could to cheer her up, that they might prosecute their Journey; but the Physician who had visited her, declared that it would be very dangerous, and as much as her Life was worth to remove her till the Fever was abated. So that the Coachman having brought their things, and receiving the hire of his Stay, was forced to leave them behind. The *Italian* came often to see the fair Traveller at the Officer's House, and began to Treat her very Nobly, an humour the more remarkable in him, who
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Sordid Niggardliness, might be compared to the wretched *Marquina*, but Love often preserves such Miracles, turning Avarice into Prodigality, and Cowardice into Courage.

Rosina kept her Bed fifteen days, during which time she was continually visited by Signior *Octavio*, so was the amorous *Italian* called, and usually after the Visit, came in a Servant with a Treat of sweet Meats and wild Fowl, which the Officer and his Wife were well pleased with, for most of it fell to their share. At length the Lady with her Health, received also her good Complexion, and Beauty, and the *Italian* continuing his Civilities offered her a House with a fine Garden, which he had on the side of the pleasant River *Quadalquevir*. *Garay* whom she called her Uncle, advised her not to refuse his kindness, for he observed the Gentleman to be extreemly in Love with her, and was very Rich, and that they might get as much out of him, as they had out of the Avaritious *Marquina*. *Rosina* hereupon accepted the Offer, and put things in order to go to the Merchant's, and continue there till she had recovered her self. The *Italian* would not have it known at *Corduba* that he had brought her to his Countrey House, to prevent the talk of the People, and

and other inconveniences that might have ensued, So that with the consent of *Rosina*, he gave it out that she had left the City in order to prosecute her Journey; Accordingly there was two Mules brought for her and *Garay*, and two others to carry their Baggage, and having left *Corduba* towards Evening, to blind the eyes of the Inquisitive, they put on towards *Madrid*, but having rid half a League, they turn'd back again, and took up their Quarters at Signior *Octavio's*, which was not above two Flight shots from the City. There he expected them, having provided a Magnificent Supper to entertain her. Here the *Italian* discovered his Love to her more freely than he had done before. He was a Person of about 40 years of Age, of a good manly countenance, having buried his Wife, by whom he had no Children, about two years before. He was a wholesale Merchant and dealt in all sorts of Goods, insomuch that all the other Trades not only of the City, but also of other places thereabout came to him, for he held correspondence in all parts.

He was a very thrifty Person, to say no more; and had some yearly revenue, besides twenty Thousand Crowns in ready Money, and Sixty Thousand in Credit, and his own Trading, which was very great.

great. He was a great Student, and had been at the Universities of *Pavia* and *Bologna* before he came Heir to his Brother, who died a very rich Man in *Spain*, and that Estate occasioned him to marry at *Corduba*. He had so passionate an affection for *Rosina*, that he used all means possible to Insinuate himself into her favour; and upon that account offered her the use of his Country-House to take the Air, and recover her indisposition; hoping that having her there, he should more easily compass his desires. She had been told by *Garay* that this Merchant was well feathered, and easy to be Plum'd, and since that good luck had fallen to them by chance, they ought to make the best advantage of it.

That night they only Supp'd together, and every one went to their rest it being very late; though the *Italian* pretended he would have returned to lie in the City; But his Servants whom he had before instructed, perswaded him not to go abroad at that unseasonable time of the night, for fear of meeting with Thieves, or the Press-Masters who were abroad, and many times did a great deal of Mischief, and robbed all they met. At last seeming to be perswaded not to stir out, he was glad to pass away some part of the night in discoursing with

with *Rosina*, and being got to bed, his business was to consider by what means, and how with the least charge he might purchase the prize he aimed at. Several things came into his mind agreeable to his humour, but the easiest he could find was to forget and never think of her more, for he was sensible that the Age we live in was such, that it is very difficult to obtain any favour from an handsome Woman without extraordinary charge.

The next day he commanded a Breakfast to be provided for her, and being told she was got up, went into her Chamber to chide her for rising so soon, and by that means to observe whether she used any Art to set off her Beauty; He found her combing her Head, and so had a full sight of her Hair which was of a great length, and of a Chestnut colour. The *Italian* bless'd himself that his new Mistress, to all her other perfections, was furnished with so fine a head of hair, but he was more surprized when upon her dividing it into two Parts to make him an Answer, he saw her Face which appeared as beautiful as when she went to bed, a thing able to enflame a Person less inclined to Love, and more to Covetousness, than he was; since there is no greater charm to secure a Lovers Heart than to see that the perfecti-
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ons of his Lady are natural and scorn to borrow any thing from Art; Indeed *Rosina* wanted neither Paints, Waters nor Ointments, wherewith Young Women oft-times hasten wrinkles, and lose their youth e're they are aware. She only washt her face in fair water, and needed no Vermilion to heighten her sweet Complexion than what was natural to her.

The Merchant ask'd whether she would please to see his Garden; who replyed, she was extreamly obliged to him for the trouble he gave himself to divert her, and to satisfie him how kindly she took that favour at his hands, went along with him just as she was, without putting up her hair, which hanging over her shoulders added much to her beauty, and it is not to be doubted but she had some design in it. Her new Gallant thought it an extraordinary favour to have her by the hand, and in that posture. She saw the whole Garden, seeming much pleased with the delightfulness of it.

Having Recreated herself with him till the Sun grew hot, She returned into the House, after which discoursing of many things, she desired to see all the Apartments. The *Italian* being very willing that she should view his wealth, shewed her a great number of Fine Pictures, done by the
best

best Painters in Europe, Some very rich pieces of Tapestry, Cabinets of Ebony of several Fashions, Embroidered Beds. All sorts of Household Stuff of great value, and all other things requisite for furnishing a House fit for a Noble-man. Having seen all the Rooms he open'd a Curious Closet which was full of Books richly bound, and neatly disposed into gilt Drawers, Garay who was with them opens one of them, and finds in it the Works of *Rugmundus Lullius*, with several other Philosophical Books. The Merchant perceiving him taken up with the perusal of those Books ask'd him what he lookt at so attentively; I find, Sir, Said he, a great many Books of Chymistry, and from the Curiosity I observe in your Collection of Treatises of this kind, I suppose you have studied that Science. 'Tis true, says the Italian, I have spent some time in the perusal of those Authors; But how far I pray are you acquainted with them. Only so far, replies the other, that I have spent the best part of my Life in that Study; Nay then, cries the Italian, you must needs be a very great Chymist. I am not so acknowledge what I am, replies Garay, we shall talk another time of these matters more at large; I shall only tell you, that beside these Authors, I have Read all I could ever meet with on that Subject.

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The *Italian* being mighty Joyful to hear this News, said, *I am extream glad that this Science pleases you, I having a particular inclination for it; I know it very well, answers Garay, (having already resolved to put a Trick upon him) but in regard I put great confidence in you, I will tell you a thing in your ear which you will be much surprized at; that my Neice without studying knows as much in a manner of this Art as I do; and is very fortunatè in the practick part of it; But I intreat you not to speak to her about it, for she would not take it well, as being unwilling any one should know it. Garay could not have thought upon a more likely way to bring the Italian into the Snare; for his Avarice was such, that he would have parted with his Soul to find out the Philosopher's Stone, hoping that if he once got that Secret he should wallow in Gold.*

Rosina busied her self at the other end of the Closet, while *Garay* made this discourse to the *Italian*, and was looking upon some other pleasant Books, for there were of all sorts; yet not so attentive but she heard something of *Garay's* discourse concerning Chymistry, and perceived the Merchant was much taken with it. The truth is, *Garay* had some knowledge of that Science, and had spent a considerable Sum of Money to find out the Philosopher's

Philosopher's Stone, which though many have sought, yet could not any affirm they had met with it; and *Garay* only experienced the folly of those who spent their time and Money in such ridiculous disquisitions; Being glad that he hoped now to have met with an opportunity to recover some part of what he had Squandered away therein.

For the *Italian* crediting all that *Garay* told him, imagined himself somewhat above a Prince. He informed him that in that very House he had all things requisite to make the Experiment; and thereupon brought him into a Room full of furnaces, Alembicks, Glasses, and Crucibles, with all manner of Chymical Instruments, and good store of Charcoal. *Garay* understanding this, concluded the Merchant would be easily deluded, and seem'd confident that though he imagined he understood all the Books he had Treating of that Art, yet that he only knew so much of them as would serve to bring him into a snare. The discourse was adjourned at that time Dinner being brought in; which being ended, *Garay* pretended to take a Nap, leaving the Merchant alone with *Rosina*, to whom he took occasion to make a full discovery of his Love; assuring her all he had was at her Service to dispose of
as

as she pleased, She seem'd to entertain the offers of his affection with much kindness, which gave him some slight hopes. She shewing her self very pleasant to him.

Having seen a Lute in one of the Rooms, she desired to have it brought her, hoping her Musick, which was excellent, might have the same effect on the *Italian*, as it had on *Marquina*. The Merchant who had little skill at that Instrument himself, was very glad to hear she could use it, ordred it to be given to her, saying, that his deceased Wife play'd admirably well upon it. *Rosina* then took up the Instrument, and shewed her accomplishment therein with such Dexterity that the *Italian* was astonish'd, and to Vanquish him absolutely, she sung an Air to it with such a Grace, that he was at a loss which to admire most, her Hand or her Voice, she received the excessive commendations he gave her with a modest Blush, a thing she could command, though never acquainted with shame, and made him this Return.

Signior Octavio what I have done was only for your diversion, be pleased to receive it as a Sign of the desire I have to endeavour your satisfaction; which yet I have not done without reluctancy before a Person of so delicate an Ear as your self, who no doubt are used to hear the best

best Voices in the World. I never heard any comparable to yours, (replies *Ostavis*) therefore I beseech you, let not your Modesty make you insensible of your own Worth, and to think my Approbation above it. And perceiving *Rosina* had laid by her Lute, he desir'd her to make use of it a while longer, and to oblige him with one Song more; which to please him, she comply'd with: and he thereupon renewed his Compliments to her, with Thanks for the Favour; which she seemed modestly to declare were not justly due to her. He then retired, that she, as well as himself, might take a little rest.

In the mean time, *Garay* instead of sleeping, was contriving how to gain the *Philosopher's Stone* (not for the credulous *Ganese*, but out of him). He had so far persuaded him of his Abilities in that Science, that he desired nothing so earnestly, as to be so well skill'd in them as he was, only out of a Design to satisfy his insatiable Coverousness. He imagined, that if he could find it out, a Rock, upon which so many Estates have been lost and thrown away, all his Household-Stuff should be of Gold, and that he should become as rich as *Cræsus*, and the wealthiest Men in the Kingdom compared to him, would be little better than Beggars.

Garay had also a long Discourse with *Rosina*, about the means how to get the Gudgeon into the Net. He gave her some Instructions in Writing, that the *Italian* might be persuaded; she knew something of that sublime Art, at least the Terms of it: *Rosina* learnt them by Heart, and to begin the Cheat, *Garay* ask'd for some Links of a Gold Chain she had brought

brought from *Sevil*. It was a large Chain, and if a Dozen Links had been taken from it they would not have been miss'd. Going into the City, he desired a Gold-smith to melt down those Links into an Ingott, which being done, he brought it back to the House, and communicated his Design to *Rosina*.

Osavio, who slept all this while as soundly as if he had not been in Love, comes in to them, and they began to talk of several things far remote from the Business he had been about; which *Garay* did purposely to engage the other to fall first upon that Subject, and indeed, in a quarter of an Hour, he was got into the Art of Chimistry: *Garay* discours'd of it after the rate of a Man that had spent his whole Estate in the work, insomuch that *Osavio* was Astonish'd thereat; for though he pretended a great deal of skill in the Science, yet he could not but acknowledge himself much Inferior to the other. *Garay* desirous to raise the Expectation of the Merchant to the highest Pitch of Admiration, assured him, that he could turn what Metal he pleased into Gold; the *Italian* was almost Ravish'd at this News, and earnestly intreated him that he might see it done. *Garay* enquired whether there was any Charcoal in the House? The *Italian* told him, there was good store, for he had had the Curiosity to make some Trials thereof himself. They went both up into the Room where they had been before, which was full of Furnaces, Alembicks, and other Chymical Instruments. *Garay* caused some Fire to be brought, and having put a little Copper into a Crucible, the *Italian* saw it melting; *Garay* then took a Paper out of his Pocket,

Pocket full of Powder, which he said, was the Principal Ingredient of the whole Work. He put this into the Crucible, which having brought as cleverly as he could to the Window, he threw out the melted Copper, and put the Ingott of Gold into its place, and covering it, told the *Italian*, that in half an Hour he should see the Operation; that time being spent in discoursing of several things concerning Chimistry, wherein *Octavio* desir'd to make some farther Progress. At length *Garay* thought it time to shew him what he had done; and so opening the Crucible, he took out the Ingott and put it into his hand. The covetous Miser was almost distracted for joy to see it, though he were not thoroughly satisfied whether it was pure Gold, or no; *Garay* desired him to try at a Goldsmith's, which he did accordingly, and found it fine Gold, and returned home extraordinary well satisfied. While he was gone, *Garay* instructed *Rosina* how to effect their Design upon *Octavio*, who being more Covetous than Amorous, would have them immediately begin the great work of finding the Philosophers Stone, promising him extraordinary Recompences, and told him he would be at the whole Charge, though it should cost him Twenty Thousand Crowns.

Garay who had fully settled the Affair for defrauding the Merchant, replied, Seignior *Octavio*, I have lived now almost Seven Years above the Climacterical Year of my Life, so that I have passed the greatest and best part of it. It were no hard Matter for me, with the help of the Science I am now Master of, to spend the little time which is yet to come at

my Ease, and it may be, to live more plentifully than many of the *Grandeos* of *Spain*, without the Favour or Assistance of any one, as I suppose, you your self have observed; and in regard I have no Children of my own to inherit my Estate, (which I thank Fortune is somewhat considerable also in Land) the main Concernment I have in this World, is to look after this Young Woman my Niece; She is but too rich already, since she has all that is mine, tho' her Father, who was my Elder Brother, left her no mean Fortune. Had she pleased, she might have been Married as honourably as she was before, for her late Husband was descended from one of the Noblest Families in *Andalusia*; and you know it is not difficult for me to add what Wealth I please to her Estate. But Seignior, such is my Confidence in you, that I will acquaint you with the reason why I do it not.

That I am the most learned Alchymist in all *Spain*, is known to many, which being also come to the Knowledge of his Majesty, I am sought for in all places, but have hitherto had the Happiness to keep out of their Clutches, who are constantly employed to discover me. I having given out a Report, that I was gone for *England*. It is not from any Contempt of the Honours and Riches of this World, that I avoid the Hands of those whom the King hath enjoyned to bring me to him, but upon consideration that I would not purchase the Favour of the greatest Monarch in the World, with the Loss of my Liberty; for I must expect to live the Remainder of my Days in a noble kind of Captivity. I will open my self more clearly to you; His Majesty hath at present

present very great Armies on foot in several Parts, which puts him to such a vast Expence that his own Revenues, and all the Treasures he receives from the Indies, are not able to defray, so that to satisfy his Ambition, he is obliged to make use of the Industry of his Subjects: Now were it my hard Hap to be found by those who so narrowly seek after me, the King knows, that with the Assistance of my Art, he might easily discharge the Expence he is at, would immediately confine me in a Castle, where being forc'd to continue the rest of my Days, I should be perpetually kept at work to augment his Treasures, and supply his pressing Exigencies. I should not think much to do it once or twice, but the Avarice of Man is grown to that Height, that they are not satisfied with the abundance they enjoy, if they have the least Apprehension that they may be reduc'd to want before they Dye. This is the true Reason, Seignior *Octavio*, that I have Abandoned my own Country and am compelled to conceal my self: Receive therefore, what I have related to you, as a great secret, which I would not have communicated to my own Brother, had he been in the World; but I have so much Confidence in you, worthy Sir, that I hope you will never reveal it.

Octavio return'd *Garay* his most affectionate Thanks for the great Trust reposed in him, and judg'd himself so happy in the Discovery he had made to him, that he thought the greatest Nobles might justly envy him; telling *Garay*, that he was of Opinion, that the Grounds and Motives for which he conceal'd the admirable Knowledge he had acquir'd

were just and rational, since no doubt, he would be Confin'd, if for no other Reason, but to prevent his carrying such a Secret into another Country, to serve a King who might be an Enemy to his Catholick Majesty. He acknowledged himself extreamly obliged to him, and wish'd it were in his Power to serve him; but having only the Wealth he was possess'd of to offer him, he intreated him to dispose of it as freely as if it was his own; and since he had shewed him a Trial of his Ability, that he would not think that sufficient, but would give him such farther Instructions e're he left *Corduba*, as being observ'd, he might not miscarry in the great Work, *Garay* promised to satisfy his Desires, acquainting him withal, that such a precious thing as Gold, could not be procured without Gold, and that the Foundation of all great Designs require Expence, that the Philosopher's Stone could not be found without much Cost and Pains; and that if he were resolved he should attempt the doing of it, he must be at the whole Charge, that afterwards the Profit should be equally divided, and that in a short time, he should be glutted with Wealth.

The *Italian* elevated at this Proposal, told him, he was resolv'd to spend all he was worth upon that Account, *Rosina* promised to assist them; Nay, says *Garay* to her, there is such a Necessity of your Assistance, that we cannot well do without it; they thereupon resolved, that within two Days the great Operation should begin, *Garay* told him, that the Princial of the Divine Elixir (so the Chymists call the perfection of their Work) was formed of solid Mercury, and other things he

he named, together with the Urine and Excrements of a Red Hair'd Child ; that all was to be put into an Alembick, with Powder of Aloes, the Infusion of Opium, Toads grease, Arsnick, and Saltpeter ; but he hop'd to do it chiefly with the aforesaid Urine and Excrements, which he ordered *Ostasio* by all means to procure, as being the most necessary Ingredient of all.

He promised to find it out, and to begin the Work, he deliverd *Garay* 500 Crowns in Gold to buy some precious Drugs he said were necessary ; and this the *Italian* did the more willingly, as well out of the Confidence he had to receive so many Thousands, as out of a Design he had thought on the Night before, of making *Rosina* his Wife, and by that means assuring himself of *Garay*. Whereupon that very Evening after Supper, he took Occasion to take *Garay* along with him into the Garden, and acquainted him with his Resolution. The Alchymist thought it a good way to further his main Design, and accordingly he approved of his Motion, and acknowledged it would be a great Honour to his Neice to be Wife to so worthy a Person ; but that there was one Obstacle to be first removed. What may that be, says *Ostasio* ? *Garay* told him, That his Neice could not be Married without a Dispensation first obtained from *Rome*, in regard that out of the extraordinary Regret she conceived for the loss of her late Husband, she made a Vow to enter into a Religious Life ; that the Occasion of their going to *Madrid*, was to receive 6 Years Arrears of Rent, due to them from a Person of Quality who was very backward in paying,

and that upon receiving the same, she would retire into a Nunnery; but as soon as the Dispensation came from *Rome*, they would consummate the Marriage, which he doubted not but *Rosina* would accept, not only out of the Complaisance she had always shewed to his Desires, but also upon the consideration that she was to Match her self with a Person inclin'd to the Study of a Science wherein she had naturally attained so great a Perfection. The *Italian* was the most satisfied Man in the World, to hear such a parcel of good Words given him, insomuch that from that very Hour, *Garay* became absolute Master of his Estate.

Garay and *Rosina* having confer'd Notes upon this new Proposal were more confident than ever of compassing their intended Robbery: He freely laid out his Money received of the Merchant in Drugs, persuading him they were not to be had under such and such Prices. He also furnish'd himself with new Furnaces, Crucibles, and Alembicks, pretending that those in the House before, were not for his purpose. In the mean time, the silly Gully was enquiring up and down for the Urine of a Red-headed Child; which he had much ado to procure, for the Mothers fearing it was to be used in some kind of Witchcraft, would not easily let him have it; but Money is powerful, and can do any thing. *Garay* could have done as much in one Day as in an Hundred, as to the performance of what he had promised, but the poor Merchant must be deluded some way or other, till he had an opportunity to smite him home, and then leave of *Corduba*, with as much

as he could carry away on two good Horses which lay conceal'd for that purpose.

He dispos'd all the Distillations into the Furnaces in the presence of *Octavio*, he bought some Metals, as Brass, Copper, Tin, several sorts of Salts, and other Materials commonly used by Chimists, and putting Fire to the Furnaces, they Distill'd what had been put into them, but contributed nothing to the Business, and tended only to abuse him who was at the charge of all this Foolery. As to *Octavio's* Courtship, he was much better treated than before, in as much as since the Proposals of Marriage, *Rosina* the better to carry on the Cheat, grew more kind to him, especially in *Garay's* Absence, which so besotted the Coxcomb, that he thought himself the most happy Man in the World.

Octavio about this time, received a Bill of Exchange of a considerable Sum, which he was to pay within 20 Days after Sight; this, with the Breaking of some of his Debtors in other Countries, made him afraid he must do the like, if his Attempts in Chymistry proved unsuccessful. But to prevent all Inconveniences, he did what most of his Quality are wont to do, who being upon the point of Breaking, secure what they can of their Estates, that they may afterwards the more commodiously move into some other Country. So our Merchant finding himself by the vain Expences he had been at, within a small distance of marching off, provided for the Misfortune in case it should happen, and so promoted the mischievous Plot of *Garay* and *Rosina*, whom he truly acquainted with the State of his Affairs, as if he had been one of his most

faithful Relations. *Osavio* accompanied with *Garay*, left in the Custody of a certain Friend of his, a good Sum of Money, and several Jewels of great Value, with Order that they should not be delivered to any but one of them two. Besides which, he brought some to his Country House, and hid them in a secret place in the Presence of *Rosina*, in whom he placed as much Confidence, as if she really had been his Wife. *Garay* who was still busy in his Distillations, gave him hopes, that in 20 Days, he should see the great Secret brought to perfection, and his House full of Gold, to retrieve all the Losses he had received.

There now happened an Affair, which obliged *Osavio* to take a Journey, to advise with a Correspondent of his, how to prevent the Misfortune that hung over his Head. *Garay* and *Rosina* being entrusted with the House, thought it a fair Opportunity to dislodge, and make the best they could of the present Game, they secured all the Money and Jewels they could come at, and left the Plate and some other things they could not conveniently carry away behind them, though with some Regret; thinking it more Prudence to make a safe Retreat with what was considerable, than to hazard all by grasping too much. Having therefore loaded themselves with what was most valuable, they left the Furnaces and the Alembicks, and gain'd the Philosopher's Stone at the Cost of the absent Merchant. They took Horse while all the Servants in the House were asleep, and made their way towards *Malaga*; they travell'd all Night, having carried off 6 Thousand Crowns in Mo-

ney and Jewels, and *Garay* left upon the Table near the Furnaces, a Paper to abuse the credulous Merchant.

Two Days after their Departure, *Osavio* returns, very much unsatisfied with his Journey, having not succeeded in the Business he went about. All the hope he now had was in his Uncle *Garay*, imagining that by his means he should yet be able to shew his head, and not only keep up his Reputation, but also be richer than ever he had been, such a strange Mist had the Witchcraft of Chimiſtry caſt before his Eyes.

He came not to his Country Houſe till after Night, where he found the Servant whom he had with *Garay* and *Rofina*, for the reſt of his People were gone into the City. The Servant receiv'd him with a ſad Countenance, and being got up Stairs, fearing ſomething was amiſs, he asked him where his Gueſts were? Of whom the Servant could give no Account, as not having ſeen them when they went out, and could only inform him, That two Nights before, they had lock'd him into the Room where he lay, which he had been forced to break open, becauſe he could not otherwiſe get out; they ſearched about, and found the Cheſts open and the Money carried away. This was not the worſt that the Merchant feared, but that they had alſo been with him, in whoſe Cuſtody he had greater Sums, and many valuable Jewels: But it being too late that Night, he thought it beſt to go to Bed, but being deſirous to viſit the Furnaces once more, he finds on the Table the Paper left by *Garay*, which having open'd, he read as follows.

Seignior Octavio,

IT is the just Reward of those who attempt things impossible to be shamefully disappointed. Many of your Profession have been ruined by their great Faith in things relating to their Trade; it was therefore but fit you should repent your Credulity in a business you understand not. It was indeed unpardonable, to expect to see that done by any Man in a few Days, which the Sun, who hath a greater Power over the Metal you are so desirous of, cannot perfect under 4, or 500 Years. Your Loss, (I must confess) is great, but you have this comfortable Consideration, that you may now dispise Chymistry, and all its cheating Professors, to shew you such another Trick as we have done. But to avoid all future Temptations, take this Cordial Advice from a dear Friend of yours. Put all the Treatises you have of that pernicious Art into your Furnaces, and having set Fire to them, & your House together, fairly run away by the Light of it.

The poor Merchant had no sooner read this, but he was convinc'd they were his kind guests that had Rob'd him, and extracted what he had in his Chests and Cabinets with a great deal more ease, than he had infus'd it in them. How he spent the Night, is only to be imagined, being just upon the point of Breaking, and not knowing any means how to remedy it. All the hope he had, was, that the Money and Jewels he left in his Friend's Hands, were safe enough; nay, he despair'd not to find out those that had done him the mischief. He turn'd himself from one side to another, not out of any disturbance occasion'd by his Love to the subtle *Rosina*, for that was absolutely vanish'd with his Money, but that he had been so basely abused by a Beggarly Ras-

mistry, and all the Authors that ever writ of it; whereas he should rather have been glad, that by the Cheat put upon him, he had been prevented from the Prosecution of his Project, which might have absolutely ruined him.

As soon as Day appeared, he got up, and went into the City to his Friend, whom he entrusted with his Money and Jewels, and asked him, whether *Garay* had been with him, who answered yes, and had taken away all that was in his Custody two Days before, according to his Order. That Word struck him almost Dead, nay, the Resentment he express'd of that Loss was so great, that if the other had not known the Cause of it, he would have thought him absolutely distracted. He comforted him the best he could, and told him his only Courle was to make a speedy search after the Robbers. He did his utmost to that purpose, sending Officers and others several ways: But that the Road which *Garay* had taken was so extraordinary, that they could never meet with them. So they returned to *Corduba*, to be paid for their fruitless pursuit by him who had sent them, which as his Affairs then stood, was no little Aggravation to his Affliction. This Adventure was soon known all over the City, and the Merchant not being able to accept of another Bill of Exchange that was sent him, was forc'd to absent himself, and to return home with what he could make by the Sale of his Goods.

The End of the Second Part.

The LIFE of

Donna Rosina, &c.

The Third Part.

GARAY and *Rosina* Rid on a good round pace, but Travelled through obscure ways for four days and nights without taking up their Lodging in any Town or Village, but lay in the open Fields, for fear of being discovered by the Officers whom they doubted not but the *Italian* had sent out to search after them. They shifted their Cloaths and having disguised themselves as well as they could, carefully avoided all places where they had the least apprehension they should be known. It was *Garay's* Province to provide Victuals, and being in the Spring they found no great inconvenience to lie abroad in the open Air. They got into a Wood about Sun-set, and fearing that a thick Cloud which overshadowed them might break upon them with too much violence, by reason it had Thundred and Lightned, some time before, they retired into the thickest part of it for their security. Other Passengers from the same apprehension, had taken refuge there, near the place where *Garay* and

Rosina

Rosina were. The noise they made in discoursing raised in *Garay* a Curiosity to go and over-hear, what they said, and perceived thro' the thick Bushes they were three Men, one speaking thus to the others.

If this Tempest last all Night, I doubt we shall be disappointed of our design; I fear it too, says the other, and no question but the Hermit of *La Sene* will be out of patience having expected us so long; Oh, that Brother *Crispen* is an excellent Fellow, says the third, his Religious Cowl covers a great deal of villany, and he is so insinuating in his behaviour, that he is very much in their favour who bestow the Hermitage upon him. He is so Transcendent an Hypocrite, cries the other, that he is able to blind all the World; He hath the reputation of a virtuous Person all over the Country, and yet there is not so consummate a Rascal to be found within twenty Leagues of his Abode; I have been acquainted with him these twelve years, says the Second, and his Profession hath been to receive Thieves and their Booties, wherein he hath been so Fortunate as never to be supposed guilty of any such Crime of that kind; whereas so many poor Rogues have been Trussed up at their first falling into the hands of Justice. It must needs be acknowledged, Says another, that this Hermitage is a very convenient place for Persons of our Profession, and the Cellar he hath made under it, is such a place as Old *Nicholas* himself would never find out. We could never have met with a more secure place, to put up the Fifteen Hundred Crowns we disburthen'd the Merchant of Yesterday; 'Twas the most considerable Robbery that

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hath been committed in this Country a long time. If it would but hold up a little, says the first Man, I hope to get a great Prize before it be day.

They then advised upon the means how to execute their design. *Garay* mis'd not a Word of all that had been spoken, being well acquainted with that Country as if he had been born in it, and knew the Hermit very well, whom till then he had accounted a Person of great Sanctity, so far was he from imagining that he drove such a Trade, and that his Hermitage for many Years, had been the refuge of Highwaymen and House-Breakers.

Having made this strange discovery, he returns to the place where he had left *Rosina*, and gave her an account of what he had heard from those Robbers. They continued there without making any noise, till the others were gone, contriving how to make their advantage of that unexpected adventure; and making their way to a blind Inn not far off, continued there till next morning; Having in that time considered what to do, they went both towards the Hermitage, where Brother *Crispen* the Hermit lived, and being come within a small distance of it, *Garay* bound *Rosina* to a Tree, upon which she cries out as hard as possible, Is there no Body that will relieve a wretched Woman ready to be murdered here; Or Revenge the Injury done to my Innocence; *Garay* replies, 'Tis in vain to call any Body to thy relief, thou hast not long to live, therefore prepare thy self for Death, for thou shalt not escape out of my hands, and I will quickly dispatch thee into another World.

Crispen heard her cry out, being alone in the Hermitage, which seldom happened; for most nights he had the Company of some of the Tribe, who though given to Watchings, yet were never fam'd either for Sanctity or performing Miracles. He came out with two pocket Pistols, and being got near the place whence he heard the noise, discharged one of them, which happened very luckily for *Garay*, it being concluded between him and *Rosina* that as soon as any came near them he should run away, and the shooting of the Pistol, giving him notice of some apprehension, he mounted on his Horse, and led away the other with all the speed he could. *Crispen* coming near the Tree, by the light of the Moon perceived *Rosina* weeping most bitterly, and seeming astonish'd through the fright she was in. Seeing the Hermit coming toward her; what art thou return'd Traytor, said she, will nothing deter thee from executing thy cruel design; Come and take away my Life, and put an end to my further trouble; and doubt not but one time or other, though I be not rescued out of thy bloody hands, yet vengeance will overtake thee, and clear my innocence. The Irreligious Hypocrite hearing her discourse, and perceiving she thought he came to do her mischief, made Answer, Madam I am not the Person you suppose me to be, but am come to relieve you in this extremity, and to save your Life; what's become of the Villain who would have taken it from you, and hath oblig'd me, contrary to the Rules of my Profession, to use Fire-Arms in your defence? not doubting but what I have done will be counted me-

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Having unbound her, *Rosina* cast her self at his feet saying, It must needs be Brother *Crispen*, (for she knew his Name) that the violence intended against me has been revealed to you, since you came so miraculously to my Rescue; and with Arms so unusual to your Profession; Doubtless you will be Rewarded for the Charitable assistance you have given to an innocent Woman; I cannot express the greatness of the kindness you have done me, otherwise than by thanks and Acknowledgments, as being oblig'd to you for no less than my Life, which the unnatural Fury of a Brother was just going to deprive me of.

Crispen was extremely pleased with the Woman; for notwithstanding he was a Fryar, and had made a Vow of Chastity, yet he had a great Passion for the whole Sex, but was Master of so much modesty and Reservedness that he would not begin any Amorous discourse and continuing his pretended Sanctity, My dear Sister, said he, I think my self very far from deserving all the Favours I enjoy from my Creator, and do all that lies in my power to Live virtuously in this Solitary place, where I have been now an Instrument to save your Life; and am extremely glad I have perform'd any thing to your satisfaction. For this Night I can only afford you such accommodation as a poor Cell can afford, where you may continue till you have Settled your Affairs, and Reconciled your self to your Brother, I assure you it is absolutely at your service, and I offer it you with the most Cordial Affection; For I had not put my self into this Habit, were it not to exercise such Ci-

Rosina renewed her thanks to him for the civil Offers he made her, bursting forth afresh into feigned Tears, a thing which some Women can do when they please, but she had the nack of it above any. She gladly accepted his kindness, as conducing very much to the design she and *Garay* had laid. They thereupon walked toward the Hermitage, and Brother *Crispen*, observing that *Rosina* was somewhat weary, endeavoured to comfort her with all the kind words he could think of, and at last took her by the Arm to support her. He opened the door of the Hermitage, and when they were got in, *Rosina* was much surpriz'd to observe a rugged place on the ground which he said was his Bed, with a Crucifix at the head of it; and on one side a Scourge hanging on a Nail against the Wall composed of many knotted Whip-Cords, wherewith his credulous Zealots were made to believe he disciplin'd himself; The rest of the Furniture consisted on a little rotten Table, which being oft removed had brought four feet to three.

Rosina finding the Room so meanly furnish'd, and the Person who made his abode there so mortified and reserv'd in his behaviour, began to repent that ever she came thither, and imagined that *Garay* had misunderstood the Conference of the Robbers in the Wood; But the devout Hermit put her out of her Dumps; for taking notice of her looking strangely at the accommodations of his Cell, My dear Sister, said he, you may think this a very poor Lodging, and that you shall have but an ill nights Rest; but be not troubled, I will lodge you much better than you think

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think for; It was your happiness to come at this time when there was no Persons here upon these Spiritual Retreats, which some devout Souls of your Sex are wont to make at this Hermitage, sometimes 8 or 10 days together. Some of these for the greater convenience of their Devotion have sent their Beds hither and some other Household Goods; Ah, incomparable Hypocrite, For it was a horrid Lie, he having for his own ease Soft Quilts, and other necessities, with a Bed or Two for entertaining his secret Comrades who came often to visit him. These conveniences were disposed into a low Room, which was also a Treasury where these Birds of Prey secured such Money and Goods as the Owners of them never intended should be acquainted with the Place.

He thereupon desired her to have a little patience till he went down and fetch'd her some Bed-cloaths, and then made her a Bed in a little Cell at some distance from his own. They had a better Supper than *Rosina* expected, there being some boil'd Meat and Broth, and a cold Rabbit, which *Crispen* pretended had been left at the Hermitage by one of his penitents, a devout old Gentlewoman, whom he was extremely oblig'd to, and to close their Stomachs they had some excellent Fruits according to the Season.

Rosina was a Woman much inclin'd to mirth, but at this time, offering her natural disposition some violence, she seem'd very melancholy and Reserved; and so continued all the time they were at Supper, eating little, the better to express her uneasiness, and trouble at the Accident that had befallen her:

A Notorious CHEAT. III

The Hermit likewise pretended he had no great Stomach, whether the Meat was not dress'd to his Mind, or that he did it out of Complaisance to his fair Lodger. After Supper the Hermit desirous to know of *Rosina* why her own Brother would have taken away her Life, entreated her to give him an account of it, which she did in the following Romantick Relation.

THOUGH it cannot but Add very much to my affliction to make a Rehearsal of the occasion thereof; yet the many undeserved Favours you have bestowed upon me, my Dear Brother, would render me a very ungrateful Person to deny you the satisfaction you desire, whom you have so highly oblig'd. I was born in the City of *Almeria*, of noble Parents, my Ancestors having been famous there for several Ages. All the Children they had were only my self and my Brother, who is a year older than I; There were some who thought the face you now see not unhandsome, that is in other words, several Persons courted me in order to Marriage; but my Brother oppos'd it as much as lay in his power, pretending some defects in all the young Gentlemen that Courted me, either as to their Estates or Families; My Father and Mother left this World, and me in it before I was fifteen years old; and I believe the true Cause of my Brother's Refusals proceeded from a desire he had that I should go into a Nunnery, where I had two Aunts, and so he might get part of the Fortune my Father left me. I discovered his design by his continual pressing me to be a Nun, but I never had any inclina-

tion to that kind of Life, and therefore answered him accordingly, which so incensed him, that he was never kind to me since.

While these things were in Agitation, a young Gentleman who had left *Almeria*, before he was Ten Years of Age, return'd from *Flanders*, where for the good Service he had done his Majesty, he had been advanc'd to the Command of a Company of Foot, and a Troop of Horse. He appear'd accordingly in very good Equipage, both as to Cloaths and Horses; he had a considerable Estate, and had not received any thing from it since his Departure from *Almeria*, so that there was a good Sum due to him. He one day chanc'd to see me at Mass, and lik'd me so well, that he inquired who I was,; some Person gave him an Account of me, and soon after, he began to make his Addresses to me, and to Court me by Letters and Presents. To make my Story short, I was not insensible of his Affection, and considering with my self the Equality of our Birth, and the excellent Endowments he was Master of, I complied with his Love, and admitted him into the House; but upon the Assurance he gave me that his Addresses were only in order to Marriage. He visited me with much Freedom, for my Brother was sick of a Disease that brought him into a languishing Condition. I wish it had carried him off, my Condition had not then been so unhappy as now it is.

One of my former Admirers being much disturb'd to see a new Comer so much in my Favour, began to watch him, and in a short time saw him come out of our House at an unreasonable Hour of the Night, he made an

Ungentle

Ungentile Advantage of that Discovery, for envying any that should obtain what he so much desired, he gave an Account to my Brother of what was acted in his House, and of which, he was in part an Eye witness. My Brother, who had recovered so much strength as to get up, was confirmed in his own Observation in what had been told him, yet could not be reveng'd on me because of his present Weakness, but resolv'd to take the first Opportunity to do it, being exceedingly incensed that I had engaged my Affections to that Captain, he having had some Difference with his Elder Brothers, and had not since been Reconciled.

At last my Brother recovered his former Health, and finding the Captain was gone from *Almeria*, he said he would carry me to see an Aunt of ours at *Malaga*, who was a Nun, of the order of *Bernard*; I believed him, and not imagining he knew any thing of my correspondence with the Captain, I was very glad of the opportunity to Visit that Aunt, whom I was much obliged to, for several Rarities she had sent me of her own Working. We prepared our selves for the Journey, and rode each of us on a single Horse, with two Servants to wait on us. Being come into the Wood near this place, he ordered the two Servants to go before and provide Lodgings for us; and coming to the place where you found me, just about Sun-set he threw me off my Horse, and put me into the condition you discovered me in, and where I had undoubtedly been murdered, had not you fortunately Relieved me, and by discharging your Pistol frighted him away before he had perform'd

the

the Villany he intended ; And may the charitable assistance you were pleased to afford me never want of a Reward, far above what my hearty thanks and Acknowledgments are able to bestow upon you.

The Hermit having heard this doleful Legend, endeavoured to comfort her, promising to do any thing for her that was in his power ; whereupon they parted for that Night and went to their several Beds ; She to that which he had provided her, and he to another in a secret Place very well furnish'd. For however he deluded the World with a pretended Austerity, he loved his ease as well as any man. He was deeply fallen in Love with *Rosina*, and extream desirous to acquaint her with his Passion, but for fear of Scandal he was a little Reserved. He spent the whole night without Sleeping, and in contriving how he might make her sensible of his Affection.

As soon as it was Day light he got up, and *Rosina* not long after, who going into the Chappel belonging to the Hermitage, found him upon his Knees before the Altar, which obliged her to do the like at a little distance from Him. He observed her, and thought fit to continue his Devotion a while, but not without much Distraction, for he could not keep his Eyes off on her, to such a Height was his Love grown in one Night. On the other hand, *Rosina*, who was as well vers'd in Hypocrisy as himself, was resolved to outvie him in kneeling, in which posture she continued longer than was for her Ease, at last, perceiving that *Crispen* had finished his Orations, she also ended hers, whereupon this sancti-

sanctified Brother comes to her, saying, May you live happily, dear Sister, the rest of your Days, and enjoy all the Pleasures of Body and Mind, you can wish for: Pray tell me, (most excellent Creature of the Creation) how you rested last Night? Very well, (beloved Brother) replied she, thanks be to your kindness, though my present Troubles will not quite free me from Disquiet. There is nothing more discovers a devout Soul, (said *Crispin*) than a sweet and humble Compli-
 ance and Satisfaction in our present Condition. And here he paused some time, till his Passion renewed it self thus.

Madam, when I consider the strange Effects of Beauty, how it transports Men out of their Senses, I cannot chuse but pity and excuse them, because the frailer part of Man aims at its own Satisfaction, and the Heart is naturally inclin'd to desire that which the Eye contemplates with a certain pleasure; especially having for its Object the most delightful thing that ever Nature fram'd. When I first left the World, I made a Resolution, (if possible) to avoid the Conversation of the Fair Sex, which is not undeservedly called *The Fairer Half of the World*, but when Manhood came, I concluded that to fly the Charms of Women, was wholly Angelical, and I now find that there is an absolute Necessity I should keep out of your Sight, Adorable Lady, lest I fall into the Snare that the Tempter is laying for me. The Sum of this Discourse, Madam, is to evince, that beautiful Faces are very dangerous, and that since my first view of yours, I feel my Chastity in a great deal of hazard. Be not startled, I beseech

beseech you, to hear me talk at this rate; this Discourse, I confess, is a little unsuitable to the Habit I wear, and the Profession I have embraced, but these have not unman'd me, and consequently not exempted me from human Frailties.

At these Words, the Hypocrite seem'd to blush, thereby to express Shame, which he was really never acquainted with. *Rosina*, with a counterfeit Modesty, seem'd to do the like; but thinking of the most probable way to bring about her main Design, she would not give him an absolute Denial, but returned him this Answer.

Brother *Crispen*, Though I know my self not to be of their number, who by their beauty may engage Men into any disquiet, yet I must own your Opinion, that the Charms of Beauty are so powerful, that I my self, tho' a Woman, am transported therewith as well as others, and know no greater Pleasure than contemplating an handsome Face, and admiring the Effects of it; I do not wonder that Men are reduced to some Extremities when they are passionately in Love, since it is manifest, that the force of Beauty operates with an extraordinary Influence; so that I am not much surprized to see it hath its Effects as well on those who are retired out of the world, as on other Persons who are under no such Restraint; since they have not attained to any degree of Perfection, nor purified from all the dross of human Enjoyments: I have reason to think therefore, that I am more obliged to the Charity you have shew'd me, because I understand your extending it towards me, was not without the loss of your

Quiet,

Quiet, and the Occasion of some Scandal; I could wish with all my Heart, that I were not the cause of so much trouble in the world, but in regard here are none but our selves, you need fear nothing as to that particular. You are desirous to know the History of my Adventures, I have no less a Curiosity to be acquainted with yours, and particularly what might have obliged you to leave the World so young for the sake of this solitary Place?

Refina's Discourse was such as the counterfeited Hermit could have wish'd, and being Elevated with Joy, told her in plain Terms, that her unparallell'd Beauty had so enchanted him to love her, that from the first Minute she came into the House, he had not enjoy'd any Rest. *Refina*, who still had an Eye to her own Business, entertained his Discourse with somewhat of Kindness, excusing it upon the Account of Natural Inclination; so giving him some Hopes that he should obtain his desires, he seem'd to be the most satisfied Person in the World. *Refina* pretended an Indisposition, and kept her Bed for two days together, being Treated in the mean time, by her Amorous Entertainer with the best Provisions that could be had for Money, which was brought to the Hermitage in the Night-time by his Fellow-Cheats.

It may seem strange, that *Refina* should have the Courage to continue in that solitary Place, in the Company of a Person, of whose Wickedness, she had sufficient Knowledge; but she knew withal the Passion he had for her, and concluded thence, That real Love never being without Respect, she could not imagine he would do her any Injury; especially

ally considering she had given him hopes of further Favours from her, as soon as she had certain Notice that her Brother had left *Malaga*.

That Night, *Crispin's* three intimate Comrades came to the Hermitage, bringing with them above two Thousand Crowns in Gold. This was the Robbery concluded upon when *Garay* overheard them in the Wood. The Discovery had been made by *Crispin* in an House of the City where he was wont to receive Alms, and the Rain, having prevented the Execution thereof that Night, they had now done their Business, by thrusting a little Boy into the Window of the House where the Money was, who made a Shift about Midnight to open the Door for them.

Crispin, who was unwilling they should know he had a Female in the House, received them in his own Cell, and treated them with a Supper: They discours'd of several things, and among them was one, who having abandoned his Studies, had engaged himself in that kind of Life, not regarding the Family from which he was descended, nor his Accomplishments which were extraordinary. This Person furnish'd them with Discourse upon all Occasions. *Rosina* from the Room where she was placed heard all their discourse, and was very glad to understand that *Crispin* was the secret Entertainer of so vertuous a Society, and immediately concluded by their Discourse, that they were the same Persons whom *Garay* had overheard. Brother *Crispin* reposed so much Confidence in her, that he was not concern'd that she should overhear the Project laid down by him and his

Fellow

Fellow Thieves, to visit those Places where they thought there was any Booty to be had. He, as Dictator to the rest, approved of some of the Robberies proposed by them, and opposed others, because of the Inconveniences he foresaw would attend the Execution of them.

It was by this grown very late, so that they would not make a Dividend of their Prize that Night, leaving it in the Custody of the Hermit their faithful Steward till next Meeting. *Crispin's* Companions being gone to their Quarters, he made a Visit to *Rosina* to wish her a good Night, whom he found more chearful than ever he had observ'd before; whereat he was very glad. From that time she began to treat the Hypocrite with more Kindness, the better to put a Trick upon an old Sharper. *Crispin* went to Bed extremely pleas'd with her favourable Glances, and the Hopes of succeeding in his Love, since he had discover'd his Affections to her so plainly, and laid aside the Mask of his feigned Hypocrisy. The next Morning early, *Crispin's* Lodgers left the Hermitage to seek a Livelihood at their cost who least of all mistrusted them. The Hermit himself was soon after on his March into the City, to beg Alms as usual of his Benefactors. He took his Leave of *Rosina*, promising if possible, to find out her Brother before he returned.

Thus was she left all alone with the Hermitage, having before-hand appointed *Gowey* to come to her as soon as Brother *Crispin* was got to *Malaga*; which he accordingly did. Mounted on one of those Horses he had brought with him, *Rosina* having heard him, opened the Door, and gave him a short Ac-

count of what had happen'd between *Crispin* and herself, but especially of the Money that was brought thither by his Comrades. In Order to rob the Thieves, they concluded that *Garay* should go back to the City, and buy some sleeping Powders to be administred to *Crispin* at his Return, that so they might have the whole Night to accomplish their designs. *Garay* brought *Rosina* the Powders before the Hermit got home, for he spent the whole day in begging, and came not back till Night.

Being come home, he was very kindly received by *Rosina*, whereat he was exceedingly Transported, his Love to her increasing every Hour. He shewed her what he had gathered that Day, and besides what was voluntarily given him, he had feloniously taken 2 silver Spoons, and a Necklace of Pearl. The Necklace he instantly presented to *Rosina*, and with many Amorous Compliments put it about her Neck: She return'd him Repeated Thanks for her Present: After which, they Supp'd very merrily together, he ever and anon Entertaining her with some Discoveries of his Love, to which she gave him very favourable Answers, promising it should not be long ere she would gratify him in what he so much desired.

It had been ordered among the Robbers that frequented the Hermitage in their last Committee, that there should be a general Meeting that Night, as well for dividing the former Booty, as to make new Proposals. *Crispin* not willing that *Rosina* should be seen, and of whom he now expected the last Favour, thought it concerned him to prevent it. As

soon as they were come together, he told them he had received Notice from the City, that there was a strict Search made for a Person that had treacherously murder'd another, and since such Places were no Sanctuaries for such Criminals, he feared there would be some sent to the Hermitage, and if any one of them should be apprehended for some other crime, he might be seiz'd and carried away Prisoner, and being brought to the Torture, might confess what he had not been charg'd with at his Apprehension. Persons of that Profession, are frightned with the least Apprehensions of Danger, which made them readily believe what their Director had told them, left the Hermitage, adjourning the Assembly till the fourth Night after. By this means *Crispin* was left alone in the Hermitage with his fair Mistress, who had promised to give him Satisfaction that Night, he thinking every Minute an Hour, till he had possession of that admirable Beauty.

Soon after they sup'd together very magnificently, *Crispin* having brought home with him both Wild and Tame Fowl ready for the Spit, and a good large Bottle of *Malaga* Wine. *Rosina* was the Cook, and made all things ready, and they both began to eat very heartily, their Minds being burthen'd from all Care and trouble. *Rosina* outdoing the Hermit at that Exercise; and having the Management of the Bottle, she took care that he never drank without having the sleeping Powder infused in his Glass. He took it off as freely as the Lady fill'd, till at length he fell under the Table dead Drunk. *Rosina*, to try whether the Potion had wrought its Effect, pull'd

him by the Ears and Nose to awake him, but to as little Purpose, as if she had done it to a dead Corpse. With that Assurance she went into the Vault under Ground, and took out all the Money she found in several Chests there, being no small Sum; she dispos'd it into several Leathern Pouches wherein the Thieves had brought it, they having Robb'd a rich Drover who was going to *Madrid*. She then comes out, and *Garay* not far off, upon the Signal agreed on, came to her.

Having loaded the Money upon *Garays* Gelding, she got upon the other Horse, and they both made their Way to *Malaga*, extremely pleased they had so dexterously cheated the most Accomplish'd Thief in Europe: They soon got to the City, and took up their Quarters in an Inn, where they lay secure that Night.

But to return to *Crispin*, The Sun was no sooner up the next Morning, but he awakes, and not having the least Apprehension of what had happen'd to him in the Night, he called for *Rosina*; recollecting himself so far, that by his excessive Sleepiness he had miss'd his so much wish'd for Opportunity, but all his Calling was to no purpose. He sought her about the House, in the Church, and in the Cellar; and not finding her, he went into the Fields to look for her, thinking some strange Accident must needs have happen'd to her, when he found all the Doors lock'd, which she had taken Care to do.

He made a second Search for her, and at last finding his Chests opened, and the Bags of white and yellow Pieces dislodg'd, he was convinc'd of his being Robb'd, and imagined

that the poor innocent Woman, frightened by the Thieves, made her Escape, and lay lurking about the Neighbouring Fields, since he supposed she would not venture to go far in a dark Night: He search'd after her till he grew weary, but she was gone far enough out of his Reach. At last, hearing no Account of her, he began to apprehend that she might be guilty of the Robbery, which struck him to the Heart: and he was ready to hang himself to think that so experienc'd a Rogue, and one that had been Chair-man to a Committee of Villains, should have such a base Sham put upon him by a Woman, and from thence he infer'd, that all she had done was only to bring him into the Noose. However he went the next day (as usual) to *Malaga*, to try if he could find her in the City: *Garay* met him, but he having never before seen him, he was never the Wiser,

Rosina and *Garay* were upon their Departure for *Castile*; but she would not go till she had serv'd the Pharisaical Hermit such a scurvy Trick as she might never fear any Requital from him. She knew the time of the Meeting of the Cabal at the Hermitage, and that they might be all found together to receive the Chastisement due to their Crime, she wrote a Letter to one of the Magistrates, acquainting him with the Place and Time when he should seize these Malefactors.

This done, *Garay* and *Rosina* took their Way for *Toledo*, and while they are travelling thither, we shall give an Account of what was done upon that Letter. As soon as it was Night, the Magistrate attended by his Officers went to the Hermitage, Beliegid

it, and took it: He found in the first Place, *Crispin*, little thinking to receive such a Visit, yet it was seasonable, considering it saved his Life; for his Fellow Thieves began to quarrel about the Money lost, and charged *Crispin* with Treachery, and probably he had received severe Usage from them, they being three to one. Having secur'd him, they search'd the whole House, and at last going into the Vault found his Companions, as also Ladders of Cords, Pick-Locks, Iron Crows, and other Instruments, useful for Gentlemen of their Faculty: They likewise found in the Chests several pieces of Plate, and other things of Value, all undeniable Demonstrations of the devout Exercise of that impious Company: They were all taken and brought away Prisoners, *Crispin* himself being so confounded, that he knew not what Answer to make to any Question that was ask'd him, whereupon the Officers in particular reproach'd him for his Hypocrisy.

With these Reproaches and Threats of the Gallows they carried him away to the City, where they were condemned to Dye; the other three upon the Rack confessed several Crimes, charging *Crispin* to have been the Man, who gave them Intelligence how to execute the Robberies which they committed, and many times opened the Doors of Houses himself to assist them therein. As for his own part, he express'd so much Resolution and Constancy in the midst of his Torments upon the Rack, that he obstinately denied all that was laid to his Charge; yet all this could not prevent the passing Sentence upon him, tho' his Execution was a while delayed

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by reason of his falling into a violent Fever in the Prison; but his Companions were all Trussed up out of the Way. Not long after, *Crispin* being upon the Recovery, and like to follow the same Way, made his Escape out of Prison at Noon Day in Women's Cloaths, to the great Surprize of the People, who long'd to see him Executed, and the great Trouble of the Jaylor, who was thought to have conniv'd thereat, by being corrupted with Money; but he clear'd himself by producing the Person who had furnish'd him with the Cloaths wherewith he disguised himself; who for that Crime was condemned to the Gallies.

Rosina and *Garay* were by this Arrived at the Imperial City of *Toledo*, where they had resolv'd to settle themselves, and to gain the greater Reputation, she pretended that *Garay* was her Father, and took a fine House in the most eminent Street of the City; her Train consisting of a Slave she had bought at *Malaga*, a Waiting-Woman, a Lackey, and a Gentleman Usher, when she lived at *Toledo*. She put on the Habit of a Widow, and went by the Name of *Donna Emeritana*, pretending to be Descended from an illustrious Family of that Name in the Kingdom of *Portugal*. *Garay* was decently cloathed for a Man of his Age, and called himself *Don Jeronimo*. She bought rich Household Goods, suitable to a Widow of Quality, and was accordingly visited by the principal Ladies of the Neighbourhood, who were extreemly pleased with the Charms both of her Beauty and Conversation. Going every Day to Mass in the great Church, she was soon observed by some

of the young Beau's of the City, and she being newly come to *Toledo*, several young Sparks were taken with her Beauty, and made their Addresses to her.

While she was informing herself who was the Richest and likely to have the most Money, that she might not forget her old Trade for want of Practice, we shall leave her, and take a turn to *Malaga*, to see what became of *Crispin* after his Escape out of Prison.

Finding himself once more at Liberty, he left *Malaga*, and got into a Wood not far from the City, where he continued all Night, and then went into the Hermitage, where he had lived many Years with the Repute of a Saint. As soon as he was convicted of the Crimes laid to his Charge, another Hermit who was counted a pious Man, succeeded in his place, who went about to several Churches, begging Alms to build a little Hospital for Strangers in that place. He was not quite settled in the Hermitage, the Place not being yet furnished, *Crispin* got thither in the night, and found a place where he had laid up something against a rainy Day; breaking up the Ground, he came to a little Earthen Pot, wherein was a Bag, and in it all the Money he had reserved of all the Robberies he had been Engaged in.

With that Sum, which might amount to 5 or 600 Pound Sterling all in Gold, he went to the City of *Jaen*, where he had a Friend of the same Occupation. This Comrade of his heard how he had got out of Prison, whereat he was very glad, being before apprehensive that he might have confess'd upon the Rack, some of the Robberies wherein they had been both

both engaged together. He received him with great Affection, in hopes of his direction and assistance in some new Enterprises; *Crispin* was but meanly accoutred, as having been uncased of the Hermit's Habit, which he shewed himself unworthy of; but the Bag he brought so well lin'd, was a sovereign remedy against Nakedness. He gave his Companion money to buy a light colour'd Suit of Cloaths and a Perriwig, cutting off his long Beard, which with a Sword by his side, alter'd him so much, that he seem'd quite another Man. In that Equipage he continued some time at *Faen*, till there happened an Opportunity to commit a considerable Robbery at *Andus*, and the Booty was nicely divided between him and his Companion. But fearing diligent Search would be made after them for this Prank, *Crispin* thought it his best Course to be gone from thence in time, the Adventure at *Malaga* being still fresh in his Mind.

They took into their Company a third Person, whom they met with by chance; a young Man born in the City of *Valencia*, they then came to *Toledo*. Their young Accomplice was called *Javino*, a poor Rope-maker's Son of *Valencia*, who for some Roguish Exploits he had done there, whereby he had gain'd a considerable Sum of Money, was obliged to absent himself from thence for several Years. He was a handsome, fair-haired, sprightly young Man, and besides the Accomplishments of his Person, had an admirable Wit, being not inferior to *Crispin* and his other Comrade.

This young Debauchee went always very fine, at the Charge of those who either did not mind, or were ignorant of the old Pro-

verb, *Fest Bind, Fast Find*. He had an Art to transform his Cloathes that he got by flight of Hand, into the newest Mode, so disguising them by changing their Laces and Trimming, that the true Owners could not have known them. One Holiday he put on a very rich Suit, and went along with *Crispin* to the great Church, and into the same Chappel where *Rosina* was at her Devotions under the name of *Donna Emeritana*, and though she was in a Widow's Habit, *Crispin* knew her at first Sight with a secret Satisfaction. He shewed *Rosina* to his Companion *Don Favino*, and having desired him to follow her, so as that she might not perceive it, he did it so cunningly, that he kept his Eye on her, tho' seeming to look another Way, till he saw her go into her House. He was very glad to hear from the Neighbours, that she lived there in great Reputation under the Name of *Donna Emeritana*, lately come from *Badajoz* with her Father to live at *Toledo*.

Crispin, to be reveng'd on her, swore that he would not leave *Toledo* till he had called her to an Account for the Money she had carried away from the Hermitage, together with the Interest, and all the Charges of his Imprisonment. To compass his Design, he instructed *Favino* what he should do, and whom he should represent, without making any real Discovery of himself to her. Not long after, an Opportunity offer'd it self to prosecute the Design they had agree'd upon. One Evening about an Hour before Night, there happen'd to be a Quarrel in the Street where *Rosina* lived; the Officers of Justice were presently called and carried the Duellers to their houses.

es. to be dress'd, securing some others that happened to be then in the Street, though not at all engag'd in the Quarrel, which occasioned others to run, it being no great pleasure to come into Trouble and Restraint for other Men's Crimes.

Crispin's Plot took its Rise from this Quarrel, and *Javino* instructed by that subtle Hypocrite, had taken the Cross of Kt. of the Order of *Montosa*, an Honour bestowed by the King, only on the natural Inhabitants of the Kingdom of *Valencia*; and to that purpose, he had made him a very handsome black Suit. In this Garb, being come to *Rosina's* House, and having given his Cloak to *Crispin*, he went in with his Sword drawn, acting the part of a Man much Astonish'd, and finding the door open, he goes up, and came into the Room where *Rosina* and her Maids were: they were a little startled to see a Man rush into the Room after that manner, and seeming much disordered; *Rosina* rose from her Seat, and the Gentleman falling on his Knees, he thus Address'd her,

If Compassion be not a stranger to so fair a Creature, be pleased Madam, to permit me to take Sanctuary in your House against the Officers of Justice, by whom I am pursued: That I have killed a Man, I must acknowledge, but it was in my Defence in this Street, where he set upon me with Advantage; the Officers were in close pursuit of me, and I had been infallibly taken, had I not courageously defended my self against two; who with the Commissary, had almost seiz'd me by the Collar; I escap'd from the rest only by the Celerity of my Legs.

' since it is Prudence in a Man to give way to
 ' the Magistrate whom he is oblig'd to respect.
 ' But still persisting in their Pursuit, I found
 ' your House open for my safety, and have
 ' taken the Boldness to shut the Door after
 ' me, and to come up into your Chamber;
 ' I therefore most humbly beseech you, Ma-
 ' dam, if it may be done without any Incon-
 ' venience to you, to dispose me into some
 ' secret place in your House, till the People
 ' are dispers'd and that I may safely go hence,
 ' But if my Presumption puts you into any
 ' Distraction, or creates you any Trouble,
 ' be pleased to give me the least Signal, and
 ' I will instantly go out into the Street, tho'
 ' I were sure to lose my Life, rather than
 ' cause any Uneasiness to such an Accom-
 ' plish'd Lady.

Refine looking earnestly upon him, and she
 who never lov'd any thing comparable to
 Money, immediately found a strong Inclina-
 tion in herself to that young Man, who seem-
 ed as Eloquent as Handsome; and thereup-
 on return'd him this Answer,

' You have done me but Justice, Sir, when
 ' you thought me sensible of Honour and
 ' Compassion; Persons in my Condition are
 ' never destitute thereof, especially toards
 ' such as your self; I presume by what I ob-
 ' serve, that you are a Person of Quality, and
 ' therefore sympathizing with your troubles,
 ' I cordially offer you the use of my House,
 ' to continue in it as long as you shall think
 ' fit, for avoiding the Pursuit of those that
 ' seek after you, it not being just that you
 ' should fall into their Hands, since by my
 ' means you may be secur'd from so great a

Danger;

' Danger; Fear not any thing here, for tho'
 ' the Officers should come into the House,
 ' I will secure you in such a secret Place, that
 ' they shall never discover you.

The Young Beau gave her a thousand thanks
 for so signal a Favour, which obliged her to
 make him this farther discourse; You are
 very sensible Sir by the Habit I am in, with
 what Reservedness I ought to live in my house,
 and yet I freely confirm to you the security
 you promise your self in it, till you have accom-
 modated your Affairs, But I have a Father
 now from home, who will expect an account
 of my demeanour; and if at his return, which
 possibly may be this day, he will entertain
 you in a Room in his Lodgings, as I am confi-
 dent he will think it an honour, I shall be
 content. The young Gallant renewed his ac-
 knowledgments for those repeated assurances,
 and expressed himself so genteely, that she
 was still the more pleased with him.

In the mean time his Fellow Robbers
 knock'd very confidently at the door, calling
 upon them to open it to the Officers of Jus-
 tice, whom they persecuted. The Servants
 were at first a little started, but *Rosina* soon
 recovering out of the small disorder which
 appeared in her countenance, took *James* by
 the hand, and led him into an upper Room,
 which had a double Partition, and before it a
 peice of Hangings, and putting him in there
 left him, being confident that it could be im-
 possible to find him out. This done she went
 to open the door, and *Crispin* impudently en-
 ters, without the least fear of being known in
 his present disguise. He was attended with
 some Rogues of the same Faculty, who with

Lanterns and Fire Arms, rudely rush into the Room where *Rosina* was. *Crispin* gave her a kind salute, and Counterfeiting his Voice, as he had done his Person, I know Madam, said he, that we may seem guilty of some Incivility thus to rush into a Widows House but my Commission obliges me there-to, and therefore I hope you will excuse me; the Lieutenant Criminal hath commanded me to search all the Houses hereabouts to find our the Malefactor we look for. Our search hitherto hath been to no purpose, and we have but this one House to examine, Give us leave therefore to look into all the Rooms; that we may satisfy our Superiors, and approve our selves honest Men. You may assure your selves, Said she to them, upon my word, that I saw no body come into my House; but that you may have no suspicion that I am a Person who would conceal Murderers, search and Welcome for him that you were ordered to seize. The Servant with a Wax Candle lighted them into several Rooms, which they were not very exact in searching, that the Lady might think it to be their Civility.

Crispin then took a formal leave of *Rosina*, Recommending the prosecution of the Plot to *Fellow* his Confederate. The counterfeit Knight came afterward out of his Apartment, pretending that he was exceeding glad to have escap'd the Officers hands, and in grateful Acknowledgments, exprest himself to the fair Widow for the favour he had received from her. She who the more she viewed him, was the more Enamour'd of him, gave him all manner of Assurances, that he should be waited on at her House according to his Quality, and

if he would have the patience to stay till her Father came home she was confident he would not suffer him to seek any other Lodging.

The Gallant who perceived the Lady began to grow warm, was the more earnest to beg that leave which he knew would not be easily granted, and pretended it would be his safest Course to take Sanctuary in some Monastery, from whence he might send Notice to his Friends where he was; and that he designing to go the next day for *Sevil*, it would be dangerous to lie that night at his Quarters. *Rosina* being much concerned to find him so resolved, She the more earnestly press'd him to stay; Representing the great hazard he ran, and desiring him by all means to stay an hour or two longer. *Favino* who wish'd for nothing more was persuaded to comply therewith. She then desired his permission to go and take Order about some things her Father had left her to do. This was only a Pretence to withdraw and confer Notes with a Slave of hers, in whom she reposed much confidence, what course they were to take in this Affair. She called her into a private Room, and made a free Confession of her Passion for that Knight, and demanded the best Advice she could take herself, were she in the same condition.

The Slave who was as Subtile as her Mistress, immediately apprehended that the Counsel she would best like must be such as complied with her Passion; I must confess, Madam, said she, it would argue an excessive Easiness of nature in you, considering the short time you have known this Cavalier to discover that he has already gotten possession of your heart; and I think it will be very unprudent

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on the other side to persuade *Garay* when he comes, to suffer him to continue here this Night; My Advice is, that since the House is large enough and that there are empty Rooms, into one whereof he may pass through your Chamber, that you lodge him there, without acquainting any of your Family therewith. It shall be my care to bring him thither, and supply him with all necessaries without *Garay's* knowledge. You understand that *Garay* is to be gone within two days to *Madrid*, and then you may freely Reveal your self to this young Gentleman whom I will easily persuade, that the Officers still continuing their search about this street, it is absolutely necessary that he stay here, unless he will hazard both his Liberty and Life.

The Slaves Counsel was extream agreeable to *Rosina's* humour, who ordered her to go immediately and lay clean sheets on the Bed, and put the Cavalier in possession of the Room. This was instantly put in execution, and not long after the amorous Widow went to visit her Gallant; You have reason to wonder Sir, said she, that without my Father's permission I have ventur'd to receive you into the House, and in the night too; but to secure a Person of your Qualifications, there may be a little breach made of the Rules of Civility; I have therefore thought it convenient, that as I have been the means of your escape out of the Eye of the Law, so you should also avoid my Father's Sight, that so you may remain here in the most profound security. Be pleas'd to think your self obliged to me for this little service, which I render to you very freely, and think it absolutely necessary for your safe-

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Favino perceiving the Fish had swallow'd the Bait, multiplies his Acknowledgments abundantly for this new Favour. This occasioned variety of Discourse between them, the Issue whereof was, that by his flattering Insinuations he still gained Ground upon her Affections, and by his natural Eloquence in celebrating her Perfections, made an absolute Conquest over her Soul. However she resolv'd to have a farther Trial of his sincerity, and whether what he so earnestly averred was true, that the Charms of her Beauty were the only Motives that transform'd a Person, who fled for Fear of his Life into her House for Shelter, to a confident Lover.

The Slave coming in, and giving her Mistress an Account that she had obey'd her commands, she took *Favino* by the hand and led him into another Room provided for him: He found it light enough, as having in the midst of it a Chrystal Branch fill'd with Wax Candles, and a magnificent Collation ready for him. He was a little surpriz'd to find she left him alone, but she excus'd it, by telling him that she would be with him again as soon as she had seen her Father in Bed. At her going out of the Room, she beheld him with Eyes so full of Love and Tenderness, that this new Demonstration heightned the Gallant into an absolute Confidence of the Success of his Enterprize.

Geray was not so far stricken in Years, but that he had the Vanity to pretend to the sole Possession of *Refina*. He acted the part of a Gallant, and had he not been already married, he would have treated of a Match with her. He kept his Wife at *Madrid*, who as

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many other Women do, that are cast off and slighted by their Husbands, bestowed the time of his Absence on those who would accept of her kindness. Some Years had pass'd since he heard from her, therefore imagining she might be dead, he had resolved to make a Journey to *Madrid*, to make a secret Enquiry after her, that in case she had left the World, he might prosecute his Intentions to marry *Rosina*, who was extremely obliged to him; and upon this Account, he was resolved to depart within 2 Days.

Leaving him in these thoughts, let us return to *Rosina*, who set *Garay* to supper as soon as he came in, and pretending some indisposition, excus'd her self that she could not bear him Company. It being his occasion to go to bed as soon as he had supp'd, *Rosina* staid till she had notice he was fast asleep, and then went to her Gallant, causing her own supper, which was somewhat extraordinary, to be carried along with her. As soon as it was ended, *Rosina*, whose love increased every moment toward her new Guest, intreated him to give an Account of his Life, and sincerely to acquaint her with his Name, his Country, and the occasion of his coming to *Toledo*. *Fabino*, whose only design was to Banter her, entertained her with the following Romance, to which she gave earnest Audience.

My Country, Madam, is *Valencia*, one of the most eminent Kingdoms of the Spanish Monarchy. You know it well enough by name, and possibly are not to learn that it hath a great Advantage over several others both in regard of Nobility and wealth, and likewise for the temperature of the Climate.

mate, and the delightful fruitfulness of its Soil. I am of the noble Family of *Pertusa*, well known in that Country; and the King for the many good Services perform'd by my Ancestors, hath honour'd me with the Order of *Kt. of Montes*, and the Comanderie of *Sylla*, which is the best of all belonging to that Order. Besides what that brings me in, I have an Estate that brings me in Three Thousand Crowns a Year. I am the only Son of the Family, and made my Addressee to a noble Lady of that City I was born in, named *Donna Sentilana*, one of the most illustrious Families of *Valencia*, a Person of most admirable Perfections: I have served her with all the Affections imaginable, whereto she gave me no Return, as being engaged to another Cavalier, named *Don Vincent Parada*: Whereupon seeing my Rival prefer'd before me, I was exasperated beyond Measure. *Don Vincent* was a Person of such an Humour, that nothing would satisfy him but to Rid out of the way whatever might obstruct his Amorous Pretensions, and meeting me one Night in the Street where my Mistress liv'd, attended by three Servants, he set upon me, though I had but one with me. I defended my self as well as I could, but at length having received so many Wounds, it was judg'd they were Mortal. There could never be made any certain Discovery of the Person that hurt me, yet it being reported that *Don Vincent* was my Rival, the Magistrate imprison'd him; but having clear'd himself either by Favour or Money, he was set at Liberty. Being recovered of my Wounds,

and reflecting on the Advantage wherewith *Don Vincent* had engag'd me, I thought it but a just Requital to fall upon him upon the like unequal Terms; I therefore surpris'd him in the same manner as he had done me, and the Issue was, that he had got off much more wounded than I had been.

There happened to be some in the street who knew me, and made Oath that I was the man who had done the Mischief to my Rival; Upon this accident I retired from thence, for he was so dangerously wounded that his Recovery was despair'd of; I saw his Friends were resolv'd to revenge his Death, and was afraid to fall into the hands of Justice. This oblig'd me to leave *Valentia* and come to this City, where I have been about a month, I have since understood by a Gentleman of that Country that *Don Vincent* is out of all danger, and in perfect health, and that the Treaty of Marriage between him and *Donna Sentillana* is concluded, whereof I have a greater Resentment than of having this day met with 2 Men who being hired by my Rival came hither on purpose to Murder me. They fell upon me in this street; One I think I have mortally wounded, and by that means made a shift to escape out of their hands, with the assistance of those who came in to part us. I found your House open, and being come into it for refuge, I find my self so secure that I have nothing now to fear but the effect of your fair eyes; and by avoiding one Prison, I am fallen into another; But excellent Lady, I think my Imprisonment so pleasant, that if you discharge me not, I shall desire

to

to continue therein as long as I live.

Thus did the counterfeit *Favino* conclude his Relation, leaving *Rebina* extremely satisfied to observe in that Cavalier not only those Accomplishments which might deserve her Love, but also such intimation of Affection to her, as rais'd in her prevailing Hopes that she might one Day be his Wife; Upon which, having ruminated with her self, she return'd this Answer.

'Seignior Don *Favino Pertusa*! I am very much concern'd that you should come into my Acquaintance upon so sad an Occasion to your self, but I am more easi that your return home may be deferr'd; for I could wish you would constantly reside in this City; and for my part, I do assure you that I would use all means in my Power to stay you here, yea, though it should be prejudicial to my Liberty. The Advantages you would gain thereby, may not perhaps amount to much, yet you cannot but think your self oblig'd to me for the good Will I bear you, considering the little time I have had the Honour to know you. Such as it is, I shall think my self but too happy, and that I have attained my utmost Wishes, if you will be pleas'd to make any Acknowledgment of it. Possibly I am not handsome enough, but I dare assure you of my good Nature; and with all that, I have otherwise wherewithal to satisfy a Person of your Worth and Quality.

'Madam, (replies Don *Favino*) though I judge my self far unworthy the Favours you have heap'd on me, and more of the good Opinion you are pleas'd to express towards me.

me; yet since I have resigned my Heart and Soul to you, I do not much fear any Displeasure you can take against me, as to that particular; your sovereign Beauty hath so transported me out of my self, that my Will and Affections are absolutely at your Disposal. It was a happy day to me, when I was set upon by those *Valentian* Cut-throats, since the Mischief they intended me, procured those many Obligations you have laid upon me; and I wish I may prolong my Life for your Service, since if you approve of the Affection I have for you, as you are pleased to assure me, I shall get into an Haven where I may defy all Dangers, in spite of all the Storms of my ill Fortune. The Thoughts of this gives me satisfaction, and makes me wholly forget my own Country, since I can never be more happy, than in the place where so much Goodness and Beauty resides.

These Discourses, and others more Amorous, pass'd between him and *Rosina*, whereby the subtle Youth perceiv'd that she was ensnar'd by his cunning Insinuations, and instead of being Courted, made it her Business to ingratiate herself more and more with him. The time pass'd insensibly in these pleasing Conferences, insomuch that it was Two in the Morning ere *Rosina* retired to her Chamber, though troubled she was forced to do it so soon; and the Impostor *Favino* presently went to Bed, extreamly pleased that his Comrade's Plot had taken so well.

In the mean time, *Crispin* was exceedingly perplex'd, that he received no News of what had pass'd that Day and the next, which was

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by reason, of *Garay's* being in the House; but as soon as he was gone for *Madrid*, the Amorous *Refina* allow'd herself more Liberty, her Love to her new Guest not suffering her to conceal her Fondness for him. At length, *Favina* sent a Letter by a Slave to *Crispin*, acquainting him how he was favour'd by *Refina*; *Crispin* answered him by the same Hand, sending him a Purse with an Hundred Pieces of Gold, to draw *Refina* into Play, and to make Presents to her Servants, that he might be sure of them when Occasion serv'd.

The Day on which *Garay* departed for *Madrid*, *Refina* was employ'd in entertaining 2 Ladies of the Neighbourhood, a Work she was not at all pleas'd with at that time, wishing their Absence, and herself in her Gallant's Company. As soon as they were gone, she went up to visit him, whom she found Tuning a Lute that her Slave had brought him, (for he was an excellent Musician, and had a Taste of Poetry, accomplishments not extraordinary in the Natives of *Valencia*) *Refina* hearing him at a Distance, came softly into his Room, when he sung a Song of his own Composing, upon the Occasion of his Love, with an unimitable Grace. This added Fuel to the flame of her Affection, which were before grown too violent to be detained within the Bounds of Modesty; but that which ravish'd her most was the Verses he had sung, they being made about her, and the lucky Accident that had happen'd to him.

Whereupon, the Love-sick Widow coming up to him, 'What, (said she) Seignior, You are Master of those excellencies which I little imagined? I am excreamly pleas'd

therewith; yet do not much Wonder at it, asknowing *Valentia* to be famous for excellent Voices. Mine is but ordinary said he. and it is rather the Pleasantness of the Words than my Voice, that induc'd me to sing. I said (said she) the Words are very new, and that they were not made above 2 Days ago: It is most true, (reply'd he) which is not much to be admir'd, since the Subject they are upon hath such an Influence over me, as would made me undertake impossibilities, as Transferring whatever I yet thought worthy of Admiration. No Flattery, I beseech you (cries she) for though I know what you say is not true, and that we must allow a Distance between Men's words and their Thoughts, who pretend to love, when it is only Compliment, yet I cannot but take it kindly from you: Madam, you may be deceiv'd in both (said he) therefore be pleas'd to believe me, when I affirm that I think my self extream happy for that unhappy Adventure, which procur'd me the Glory of your Friendship. All I beg of you is, that you would be pleas'd to pardon my Freedom, since my Heart cannot be fuller of Respect for you than it is.

In short, these and other insinuating Dialogues, rais'd the Widow to such a high Pitch of Kindness, that the crafty Companion began to relent, and resolv'd to desist from the Enterprize which had occasion'd his coming thither, and to love his fair Landlady in earnest; and thinking he had fully satisfied her with the Legend he had told her of his Life, he became so familiar with her, as to desire her to give some Account of her Extraction

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and Fortune. She resolv'd to make her Condition equal with his, and accordingly acquainted him in a short Narrative, That she was descended from the illustrious Counts of *Menezes* in *Portugal*, though she was born in *Badajos*. The cunning Spark immediately apprehended what Game she would be at, and that her Design was to oblige him to Marry her. This was directly contrary to the Sentiments of *Crispin*, who would by no means have him think of any such thing, but continually reflect on the Dangers those Persons are apt to run into, who following the Profession he was engag'd in, are concern'd to be expeditious in the Execution of their Enterprises; lest being prevented by some unexpected Accident, they come to make their last Wills at the Gibbet, before they are willing to remove into the other World.

The young Gallant grew still more warm in his Love towards *Rosina*, especially upon the Consideration, that according to her own Relation she was nobly Descended. He us'd thereupon all ways imaginable to heighten her Affections to'ards him. She on the other Hand, had the same thoughts, so that concurring in their Desires, like Lovers mutually passionate, *Rosina* carried herself so freely and familiarly towards him, that he might easily perceive she had abandoned all Modesty, in so much that upon a little Entreaty, she permitted him to do what he pleas'd. But in the midst of her Embraces, she did not forget her old Acquaintance *Garay*; she reflected on the Familiarities that had pass'd between 'em, and how much she was oblig'd to him, and that he was esteem'd all over the City as her

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Father. She imagined to herself the Resentment he must needs have at his Return, when he found she had so treacherously forsaken him. She was thinking to give him a Sum of Money privately and so dismiss him: But pondring more seriously upon it, she thought it her best Course to leave *Toledo* before he came back, and to persuade her new Gallant to carry her into his Country Seat at *Valencia*. She resolv'd in Two or Three Days to declare her Mind to him, for *Gara* was not expected home till 15 Days after.

Mean while *Rosina* and her Gallant pass'd away the time very jocundly, and being really in Love with her, was fully resolved to put a Trick upon *Crispin*, and to proceed no farther in his first Design. It was in the Winter time, when the Nights are longest, that these Lovers shortned the long Evenings with an Intermixture of Caresses, Songs, and Amorous Discourses; nay, many times they sung together their several parts to a Musical Instrument he played on.

In these warm Days. (her Heart being open) she told him she had some intentions to leave the House she was in, before her Father's Return from *Madrid*, and to carry along with her all the best Household-Goods, and go with him to *Valencia*, since he was so powerful in those parts, and descended from so illustrious a Family; and that her Father would not be dissatisfied with her Marriage when he should come to hear of it. Upon this, the disguis'd Cavalier was forced to discover how it had been contriv'd between *Crispin* and him to Rob her, and being desirous that she should continue no longer ignorant of the Imposture, he thus

thus disclosed the whole Affair to her.

MY dear Heart, (said he) having Experienced the Kindness and Affection wherewith you have been pleased to honour me, I were the most ungrateful Person in the World, if I should conceal any thing that so nearly concerns you; No, I will make an absolute and full Discovery of my self to you, and acquaint you with such things, as have not hitherto so much as entered into your Imagination; for which, I have very little Reason to expect your Pardon, were it not, that the sincere Affection I have for you, may in some Measure alleviate my Crime; I do not say you have any Obligations to me for loving you, since it is almost impossible, but that those who have once had a Sight of your excellent Perfections, must be Charm'd with them, and become your Captive, as I happily am; My Liberty, and all the Powers and Faculties of my Soul, being absolutely at your Ladyship's Disposal.

This Preamble, Madam, is only to induce you to forgive the Offence I have committed against you: I now ingeniously acknowledge that I am not the Person I describ'd my self in the Account you requir'd me to give of my Family. 'Tis true, I was born in *Valencia*, but meanly Descended, yet of Parents of good Repute. My Father got his Livelihood by the Labour of his Hands, and the Sweat of his Brow, being by Profession a Rope-maker. I found I had some ambitious Thoughts above my Profession, and therefore unwilling to follow my Fa-

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her's laborious Profession, I went into *Castile*, having before been at *Andalucia*, where I made those Advantages of my Travels, and the Conversation I met with, that I never wanted either Friends or Money. I came to this City in the Company of a Man named *Crispin*, who had been a Prisoner some time at *Malaga*, but for what Crime, he would by no means acknowledge to me. This Person hath obliged me, having born my Charges all the way: Nay, more than that, he hath lent me Money, out of the Confidence of the Reality of my Intentions, to serve him in the secret Trade we managed together. He declar'd his Mind to me one Day, and advis'd me, by some Pretence or other, to get into your House, for he knew you had good Store of Money, and was very desirous to ease you of some part of it. From his Discourse, I found he had been Prisoner at *Malaga* for some Robbery. Now to compass our Design, we pretended a Quarrel, which should occasion me to take Refuge in your House; and in the mean time you have entertained me with such extraordinary Kindness, and have so highly obliged me, that I find your Favours will frustrate *Crispin's* fellonious Project. And now having Acquainted you with the unhandsome Trick we designed to put upon you. Assure your self, Madam, that I will retaliate it upon himself, and deprive him of what Money he hath, to Chastise him for his Folly; for I abhor to be Ungrateful to a Person whom I love and honour, and from whom I have received so many Obligations. I have discovered the bottom of my Heart to

you, dispose of me now as you think fit, for I am resolv'd to perish, rather than consent you should receive any Injury, tho' I have Disclaimed the Quality I had unjustly assumed.

Refina was extremely exasperated against *Crispin*, not so much for his Design to be Reveng'd on her for the Prank she had play'd him at *Malaga*, but upon an Apprehension that he might have acquainted *Favino* what kind of Person she was, and what Trade she follow'd; whereupon, considering that he had so ingenuously discovered himself to her, and acknowledged the Meaness of his Birth, she thought her self oblig'd to the like, and to give him a sincere Account of her Descent, Course of Life, Friends, and in a word, of all her Adventures till her Arrival at *Toledo*; Love and Wine made her discover all, and *Favino* was glad she was of no higher Extraction than himself; their Equality not only occasioning a greater Kindness, but created some thoughts of a Match between them. They resolv'd to leave *Toledo* and take up their Residence at *Madrid*: But *Refina* acquainting him, that she was resolv'd to be Reveng'd on *Crispin*, who had contriv'd such a mischievous Design against her. *Favino* undertook it, telling her that under pretence of their Acquaintance and Friendship, he could easily bring him into the Noose, and not only leave him money-less, but likewise procure him a second Lodging, for fear he should attempt to be quit with them again.

With this Resolution, leaving *Refina*'s house he went to *Crispin*, whom he found at his

Lodging, not expecting that he should have seen him so soon. He was overjoyed to hear how his Companion had insinuated himself into *Rosina's* Favour; whereupon *Favino* telling him that he wanted another Sum of Money, as well for his own Expence, as to gain the Servants; the Apostate Hermit answered him, he should not want it. By this means, *Favino* thought to oblige him to put a greater Confidence in him, heightened the intended Cheat with a multitude of Oaths of inviolable Friendship. Thus was an old experienc'd Villain brought into a Fool's Paradise; and that *Favino* might live suitable to the Relation he had made of himself, he gave him an hundred pieces of Gold, to be dispos'd of as he pleased, hoping to have them return'd with Ten-fold Interest. He took them out of a Bag where there was 5 or 6 Hundred more, some part of his former Purchases. *Favino* observed the Place where he put his Treasure, and resolv'd never to rest till he had altered the Property of the Purse. While *Crispin* went to give his Landlady Orders for a Brace of Partridges and a Rabbit for their Suppers, he went to the Portmanteau where the Money was secur'd, and opening the Padlock. (a thing he could do as cleverly as any of his Profession) took out the Bag, and dispos'd it into a Place where he might take it with him without Observation. They sup'd very merrily; after which, he took his Leave of *Crispin*, elevating him with the Hopes of bringing his Design to pass very speedily.

He went instantly to *Rosina*, who we may Imagine receiv'd him with open Arms. He gave her an Account of what had pass'd be-

tween him and *Crispin*, and how with his own Money, he himself had promoted the design to plunder him. Being alone, he shew'd her the Yellow Pieces, for she had great Affection for Money of that Colour. He then represented to her, how much it concerned them to leave *Toledo* before *Crispin* should discover the Loss of his Money. *Rosina* told him, she knew an Expedient for that, which was to put the same Sham upon him there, that she had done at *Malaga*. Having thereupon sent a Letter to the Provost, whose Business it was to prosecute such People, they made Provision for their Departure to *Madrid*, and meeting with two Waggons that were going thither, they put their Goods into them, taking only the She-Slave to wait on them. They went to the Court in that City, where, as in a Sea so many Rivers meet, *Rosina* having resolved not to appear publicly there, until she had heard some News of *Garay*.

Leaving them there, let us see what was the Effect of the Letter sent to the Provost. As soon as he had read it, he went according to the Directions therein, attended with some of his Officers to *Crispin's* Lodgings, who impatiently expecting that *Javino* should let him into *Rosina's* House, and put him in possession of all her Money, was seiz'd in his Chamber, and sent to Prison. Not long before, one of the Judges of *Malaga* had been at *Toledo* to enquire after him, and not finding him, had left with the Provost a Description of his Person and Physiognomy, by which, though his present Habit much disguised him, yet he was violently suspected to be the same Man. They seiz'd on what they found in the House, among

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which, *Crispin* suppos'd they had met with the Gold, for he knew nothing of its Departure. Being put upon the Rack, he confessed all the Villanies he had committed, for which, he was sentenced to be Hang'd, and was Executed accordingly; having been observed to use such Generosity as not to impeach any of those who had engaged with him in his Designs, though he knew his present dismal Fate had been procured by his Friend *Javino*, yet he forgave him and all the World besides.

In the mean time, *Rosina* and *Javino* were Married as soon as they came to *Madrid*, but kept out of the Sight of *Garay*, who went soon after to *Arcala*, where he had been told his Wife was, but not meeting with her there, he fell in with some of his own Employ, and being surpriz'd in a Robbery, they were all Condemned to the Lash, and six Years Recreation in the Gallies. *Garay* was brought to the Chain at *Toledo*, which gave some little ease to his Mind, for thinking that *Rosina* had been there still, he writ a Letter to her desiring her that since she had acquir'd all she was worth by his Co-operation and Assistance, she would have some Compassion on him, and exempt him from that hard Penitance, by buying a Slave in his Room. The Messenger inquires for *Rosina* where he had directed him, and the Neighbours acquainted him that she had left *Toledo*; so that poor *Garay* burthened with an heavy Chain, Old-age and Hardship, came to have that Relation to His Catholick Majesty, as his Slave, which he and many others, tho' they justly deserved it, little expected to be preferr'd to.

On the contrary, *Don Javino* lived like a

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Prince at Madrid, where he soon met with some of his old Companions; a sort of people who like Foxes, never live better than when they are catch'd. They committed some Robberies with Care and Industry, that the Authors thereof could never be discovered; by which they were so flattered and encouraged, that they daily performed new Enterprises.

A Company of Stage Players were then newly set up, at the proper Charge and Liberality of a Grandee of Spain, who was very rich, and Furnish'd them with all they wanted. This fresh Company had the whole Court to themselves, and their Benefactor gave them by way of Advance, Four Thousand Crowns, to provide them with Cloaths, and other things suitable to the Plays they intended to represent; This Sum was brought into the House of one of the Actors, an ingenious Person, for whom the rest had such a Respect that he managed all things, and gave them a faithful an Account thereof. He put this Money into a great Chest, whereof he always carried the Key about him. *Jabino's* Comerades having soon an Account of it, and thought it to be a noble Attempt to gain it, they propos'd several ways to that end; but at length it was refer'd to *Jabino*, whose Advice they had found very fortunate upon other Occasions. He desired time till the next Day, and that Night communicating the Business to his Wife *Rosina*, with the different Proposals of his Companions, she gave him infallible Directions, how the Business should be effected.

Jabino had a Smatch of Poetry upon which they founded their Plot, which was approved

of by the rest of the Conspirators. The next Day, he clothed himself like a Scholar newly come from the University, in a Cassock, and a long black Glose, very bare and spotted in many places; they fitted his Nose with a large pair of Spectacles, which were fastned to his Ears with a Lute-string, (a Fashion much used in Spain) he had a huge broad brim'd Hat, with all things requisite, to Act the Part of a Ridiculous Poet, as the way they conceiv'd most probable to compass their Project.

He went thus to the Comedians, who were met at their Theatre, upon the Rehearsal of a Play which was to be Acted within a few Days; He address'd himself to the Director of the Company, saying, 'Sir, I am your humble Servant, and a Poet, if it may not be any Offence to you. The Comedian was a very apprehensive Person, (as we said) and had often met with such Extravagants as *Favins* seem'd to be, and replyed, Sir, assure your self it shall not trouble me at all. 'The Design of my Studies, (said the other) was to become Eminent in Divinity, that so I might be capable of a good Benefice; in Order to which, I have already taken the Degree of Batchelor of Arts. I am a *Biscayan*, and Allied to the most honourable Families of that Province, and am known by the Name of *Dominico Joancho*. I addict'd my self to Poetry, for indeed I was born a Poet, and finding that all people admir'd my Works, and many were importunate with me to publish them, I would needs make a Trial of my Fancy in writing of Plays, which I compos'd in an extraordinary Stile; and I

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can furnish you with at least a Dozen, fit for the Stage. I am come to Court, where there are excellent Wits, and I have had the Honour to be esteemed here according to my Worth; and I may without Vanity affirm, that the greatest Criticks have acknowledg'd my Perfections to be extraordinary. And I think it my greatest Happiness, Sir, to flourish in the same Age with such a Noble and Illustrious Company, who may be call'd the Flower of all those that ever were in *Spain*, in whose Service I am willing to employ my Talent, if you are willing to accept thereof; and as for the Price, I know you have so much Honour, that I am sure we shall not disagree.

The Comedian was of a very pleasant Humour, and glad of any Occasion to Divert himself; so that measuring his Inside by his Out-side Appearance and Discourse, he told him that he did them a Transcendent Honour, and that he gave him Thanks in the Name of the whole Company. Then turning to his Companions, Gentlemen, (said he) be pleased to take Notice of the Renowned *Dominico Joachon*, a Nobleman of *Biscay*, and an Excellent Poet, whose Productions for the Theatre, are beyond all that has been hitherto written, and who offers to exhaust his excellent Vein of Poetry for our Service, having already finished several Plays which he hath a Desire to shew us. The other Comedians by the Discourse of their Fellow-Player, and the ill Equipage and coarse Looks of the Person, easily discover'd that He and his Wits had taken Leave of each other; which obliged them to pretend that they were extremely obliged

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obliged to him, saluting him one after another very civilly, to which he made an handsome Return.

Then sitting all down about him, they desired him to read the Titles of some of his Comedies, which he said were ready for the Stage. The Counterfeit Author, who Acted his part very pleasantly, took a Paper out of his Pocket, and read thus: A Catalogue of Plays, written this Present Year by *Diminica Joaicho*, a *Biscayan* Poet. I. The Extravagant Infanta. II. The French Pox. III. Almonds for such as have no Teeth. IV. The Scorching Summer. V. Between two Stools the Arse comes to the Ground, &c. The Comedians could hardly forbear Laughing at the extravagant Titles of the Comedies, and pretended that they should be glad to enjoy his Conversation longer. The principal Comedian desired his Company at his House to Supper, where they would be all ready to Entertain him, and to have an Account of what Play he design'd to Act first. He then departed, promising not to fail them.

Favino having made this Progress in his business, went and gave his Fellow-Thieves an Account thereof, appointed them to wait about the House where the Money was, he undertaking to amuse the Comedians, so long till they had done their Work, which would not be long, since they had all their Picklocks and Implements ready for Men of their Calling. The Players on the other side, prepared all things to shew the Poet such a Trick as they thought his Extravagance deserv'd, prescribing some Squibs and Crackers, (if possible) to affright him out of the little Wit he had left.

left, though it proved to their Loss in the Sequel.

At the Hour appointed, the Sham-Poet came to the House to which he was invited. He who expected him, had provided what was Requisite to make Sport enough that Night for the whole Company; and seeing them all met, said, the Room was too narrow for 'em, and that they had better remove to the Theatre, where they should not be Disturbed. The feign'd Poet was glad at this Offer, because thereby the Coast would be clear about the chief Comedian's House, and his Comerades might more easily dispatch their Affair. It happen'd to his Wish; for the Mistress of the House, who heard her Husband and others of the Company Talk of the Extravagant Poet, and how they intended to serve him, would needs see the Sport; and lest it might be late ere they return'd home, she took all the Servants along with her and left the House empty. They brought the Poet to the Theatre with a great deal of Ceremony, and placed him at the end of a Table on which there were 2 Candles. Having taken one of his Comedies out of his Pocket, and the Company silently expecting, after 2 or 3 Grave Hem's, he began to Read the Verses, but after such a Ridiculous and Foolish Manner, that when he had gone over about a Hundred of them, the Players perceiving that the Piece contain'd many Sheets close-written, and Tired with the Impertinence of what they had already heard, and that they had spent the Night so simply, interrupted the Reciter with a kind of Buzzing Noise. That was the Cue which the pretended Poet expected, yet seem'd to be

Angry, and clapp'd his Hands with such Violence on the Table, that he shook the Candlesticks, and cried out, aloud, *Tacete! Tacete!* Hold your Peace! Be Quiet! But the Players and others not understanding *Latin*, the Hurry increas'd, the Table was overturn'd, and the Candles put out, and all retiring from him, they set Fire to the Train laid for the poor Poet. He found himself beset with a number of Squibs, Crackers, and long Bags full of Sand, like Snakes, all in open Hostility against him. He was in a very desperate condition, for there was nothing but Confusion on the Theatre, besides the Flames of Rosin, which came up beneath the Stage, and were ready to Choak him, enough to Cure him of all thoughts of Poetry for the future. He seem'd to take it very unkindly, that he had been brought thither to receive such an Affront; for besides the danger his Tinder Cloak and Caslock were in of a general Conflagration, he lost his Comedy, pretending that a greater Damage could not have befallen him.

The Epilogue of the Comedy was somewhat Tragical to the Players, since *Javino's* Confederates, while the Company was thus Entertained at the Theatre, had found a way into the Comedian's House, and examin'd all the Chests and Trunks that stood in their way, in one whereof they found the Money they lookt for, which they carried to *Javino's* House where it was equally divided.

The next Day, the Comedian going to take out some Cloaths, was much surpriz'd to find the Chest open. He ask'd his Wife who had been in the House, she could give him no account of it. He sent People abroad to search
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and acquainted the Magistrate with what had happen'd; the nearest Streets to his House were Searcht, but to no purpose. He fell Sick out of pure Discontent, and kept his Bed, and then began to doubt, that it was a Trick put upon him by the pretended Poet, for whom he had made strict Search, tho' in vain.

In the mean time the Officers of Justice were upon their Duty, to find whether searching for the Poet they could find the Thief. At length they happen'd to seize one of *Javino's* Companions upon Suspicion, who being put to the Torture, confess'd the whole Contrivance; and by his Directions, *Javino*, *Rosina*, and all the rest of the Confederates, were taken and sent to Prison, and they unanimously declaring, that *Javino* and his Wife were the only Contrivers of the Robbery, who Liv'd likewise at a high Rate, without any Visible Estate, and having none to speak for their Reputation, the two former were Sentenced to be Hang'd, and their Comerades Condemn'd to the Gallies.

*Thus Thieves, though for their Villanies Renown'd,
Often with shame and Infamy are Crown'd.
And those that do their Countries Laws offend,
Their just Fate is an Halter in*

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The Art of Legerdemain.

Bunyons Holy War.

Solomons Temple.

Sighs from Hell.

The Book of Knowledge.

The Crucified Saviour.

Crumbs of Comfort.

Dyers Works.

Divine Breathings.

The English Rogue.

The Female Grievances.

The Holy Jesus.

The Wars of the Jews.

The History of fair Rosamond.

The History of the Tales of the Faries.

Starts Sermons.

The History of Oliver Cromwel.

Jacobs Ladder.

The Mothers Blessing.

The Travels of Godliness.

The Travels of Ungodliness.

The New Years Gift.

Books sold by D. Pratt.

The Protestant Tutor.
 The Practice of Piety.
 Pelling of Time.
 Quevedo's Visions.
 Reynolds of Adultery.
 The Supplication of Saints.
 The Secretary's Guide.
 The Tokens for Marriners.
 The Weeks Preparation.
 The Young Mans Calling.
 The Art of Money Catching.
 The great Affair.
 The Quakers Accademy.
 The Young Mans Companion.
 The Ladies Clofet.



The New Years Gift

